FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

LAST ISSUE

THE *NEAR EAST & SOUTH ASIA DAILY REPORT*
WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE AS A PAPER BOOK AFTER **16 AUGUST**
TO ARRANGE FOR ELECTRONIC RECEIPT, PLEASE SEE INSIDE
FOR INFORMATION ON VARIOUS OPTIONS

LAST ISSUE

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-159
Thursday
15 August 1996

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Dear Customer:

Responding to our many customers' requests, NTIS is offering FBIS publications electronically. Due to resource limitations, hardcopy production of FBIS publications will be phased out during 1996. Hardcopy reports which have already been discontinued include *Arms Control & Proliferation Issues, Environment & World Health, Narcotics, and Terrorism.*

Hardcopy publication of the regional DAILY REPORTS will cease as follows:

1 August	*China, Latin America*
19 August	*Near East and South Asia, West Europe, Sub-Saharan Africa, West Europe Economic Review*
2 September	*East Asia, East Europe, East Europe Economic Review*
16 September	*Central Eurasia, Central Eurasia Military Affairs, Central Eurasia Economic Review*

FBIS' goal is to cease publication of all hardcopy reports by 31 December 1996 except for S&T PERSPECTIVES, S&T CENTRAL EURASIA, S&T CHINA, S&T KOREA, S&T EUROPE, and S&T JAPAN. The S&T reports will continue to be published as hardcopy until the graphics they contain can be disseminated on-line.

FBIS products are offered electronically through the National Technical Information Service's (NTIS) "World News Connection" (WNC). This is a new on-line subscription service accessible through the World Wide Web. The Web address is http://wnc.fedworld.gov. Please see the next page for a subscription form or call NTIS Fax Direct at 703-487-4140 and enter product code 8645 to receive more information.

World News Connection™

A Foreign News Alert Service from the U.S. Government

World News Connection - WNC1.....$ 21
7 Day - Introductory Offer
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number SUB-9856BDQ

World News Connection - WNC2.....$ 50
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[no profiles]
Order number PB95-985700BDQ

World News Connection - WNC3.....$ 75
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[1 profile]
Order number PB95-985800BDQ

World News Connection - WNC4.....$100
Monthly
Unlimited interactive searching
[up to 5 profiles]
Order number PB95-985900BDQ
(Prices are subject to change)

User Name *(Please Print or Type)*	Internet E-mail Address *(Required)*	Order Number	Price
1) _____	_____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____	_____	_____

(Continue on a blank sheet if more space is required)

Deposit Account Number (for NTIS account customers only): _____

Customer Master Number (if known): _____ Date: _____

Contact Name: _____ Organization: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Province/Territory: _____ Country: _____

Foreign Postal Code: _____

Internet E-mail Address (Organization contact person): _____

Telephone Number: ( ) _____ Fax Number: ( ) _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Credit Card Expiration Date: _____

Card Type (Visa, Master Card, or American Express): _____

Cardholder's Name (as printed on the credit card): _____

Cardholder's Signature (required to validate all orders): _____

(Please fax this form back to NTIS at **703-321-8547**. Fax service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
To verify receipt of your fax, call (703) 487-4679 between 7:00am - 5:00pm, Monday - Friday, Eastern Time.)

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-159 *15 August 1996*

CONTENTS

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Sends Message to Clinton on Israeli 'Violations' *[Jericho VOP]* .. 1
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Accepts al-Qadhdhafi Invitation To Visit Libya *[London AL-HAYAH 15 Aug]* 1
Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Says Israel 'Not Serious' About Peace Process *[Jericho VOP]* .. 1
Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Meeting Abroad Aims To Secure 'Unified Working Plan' *[AL-NAHAR 14 Aug]* 1

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Israeli-Palestinian Civilian Committee Meets *[Jerusalem Radio]* 2
Arab-Israeli Talks: 'Asfur Says Jerusalem Meeting 'Produced Nothing New' *[Jericho VOP]* . 3
Arab-Israeli Talks: Details of Israeli-Palestinian Civilian Committee Viewed *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: EL WATAN Reports Security Forces Kill 16 Islamists *[Paris International]* 4
Algeria: Committee To Prepare for National Debate on Economic Policy *[Algiers TV]* 4

Sudan

Sudan: MENA Reports Coup Attempt Foiled Over 'Past Few Days' 4
Sudan: Foreign Minister Accuses Asmara of Escalating Border Hostilities *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 14 Aug]* 4

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia Signs Chemical Weapons Ban Treaty *[SPA]* 5
Saudi Arabia: Minister Views Economic Improvement, Falling Payments Deficit *[SPA]* 5

Yemen

Yemen: Yemen Demands 'Immediate Eritrean Withdrawal' From Disputed Island *[AFP]* 5
Yemen: Yemen, Eritrea Deny Clashes on Hanish Island, Swap Accusations *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Aug]* 6
Yemen: Salih Interviewed on Saudi Ties, GCC Membership Issue *[Sanaa TV]* 7

IRAQ

Iraq: Turkish Ministers Say Country Seeking To Lift Embargo *[INA]* 8
Iraq: Deputy Foreign Minister, Turkish Ministers Discuss Reviving Relations *[INA]* 8
Iraq: Saddam Husayn Receives Visiting Turkish Ministers *[INA]* 8
Iraq: Trade Agreement With Turkey Signed *[INA]* 9

Iraq: Turkish Ministers Conclude Visit; Next Talks Scheduled for 20 Sep *[Ankara TV]* 9
Iraq: Opposition Says Dhi Qar Villages Bombed in Late Jul *[Voice of Rebellious Iraq]* 10
Iraq: PUK Says KDP Colludes With Iraqi Regime To Obtain Arms *[Voice of the People of Kurdistan]* 10
Iraq: Remains of Soldiers Killed in War Exchanged With Iran *[INA]* 10

ISRAEL

Israel: Defense Minister To Meet 'Arafat Next Week, Offers To Meet Syrians *[Jerusalem Radio]* .. 11
Israel: Netanyahu Attorney Appointed Special Envoy to 'Arafat *[MA'ARIV 15 Aug]* 11
Israel: Netanyahu Views Hebron Redeployment, Hizballah's Katyushas *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
Israel: Defense Minister Warns Lebanon Against 'Any' Fire, Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 11
Israel: Netanyahu Convenes Ministerial Meeting on Hebron 15 Aug *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Israel: IDF Drafts 'Secret' Plan for Bypass Roads in West Bank *[Jerusalem Radio]* 12
Israel: Netanyahu Bureau Officials on Levi, Eytan Crises *[Jerusalem Radio]* 13

JORDAN

Jordan: Prime Minister Addresses Deputies on Bread, Fodder Issue *[Amman Radio]* 15
Jordan: Prime Minister Criticizes IAF-Led Boycott *[JORDAN TIMES 15-16 Aug]* 15
Jordan: IAF-Led Boycott Bloc Demands Government's Resignation *[JORDAN TIMES 15-16 Aug]* . 16
Jordan: Proposal To Renegotiate Bread Price Increase Defeated *[JORDAN TIMES 15-16 Aug]* 17
Jordan: Officials View Jordanian-Saudi Relations After Summit *[AL-RA'Y 14 Aug]* 18

LEBANON

Lebanon: Foreign Minister Speaks to Press Upon Arrival, Meets al-Hirawi *[Damascus Radio]* 19
Lebanon: Buwayz, Syria's al-Shar' Comment on Peace *[Beirut Radio]* 19
Lebanon: Monitoring Group Convenes in al-Naqurah on Israel's Request *[Beirut Radio]* 21
Lebanon: Israelis Shell Villages; Amal Group Attacks Patrol in South *[Beirut Radio]* 21

SYRIA

Syria: Netanyahu Criticized for Practicing 'Policy of Deception' *[Damascus Radio]* 22
Syria: Netanyahu Seen as 'Hostile to Genuine Peace' *[Damascus Radio]* 22
Syria: 'Extensive' Moves on United Arab Peace Position Hailed *[Damascus Radio]* 23
Syria: Damascus Reluctant To Extradite 'Arab Afghans' to Egypt *[London AL-HAYAH 14 Aug]* 23

SOUTH ASIA

India

India: Sharma's Independence Address Honors 50 Years of Freedom *[Delhi TV]* 25
India: Gowda's Address on Women's Rights, Poverty, Foreign Policy *[Delhi TV]* 27
India: Notification Issued for First Phase of Polling in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 30
India: United Front Criticizes OIC Statement on Kashmir Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 31
India: Foreign Secretary Says Delhi To Veto CTBT in Present Form *[Delhi TV]* 31
India: Radio Reports Reasons for Delhi's Rejection of CTBT Draft *[Delhi Radio]* 31

Iran

Iran: Iranian Official on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty *[Tehran Radio]* 32
Iran: Delegate Raises '3 Concerns' to Test Ban Treaty Draft *[IRNA]* 32
Iran: Commentary Views Objections to Proposal on Nuclear Test Ban *[Tehran TV]* 32
Iran: Clinton's 'Long List' of 'Defeats, Blunders' Described *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 5 Aug]* 33
Iran: Daily Sees 'Retrogressive' U.S. Foreign Policy *[KEYHAN 4 Aug]* 34
Iran: U.S. Line on Iran Seen as Attempt To Shake Its Stability *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 14 Aug]* 35

Iran: Commentary Calls U.S. 'Main Cause of Insecurity' in Region *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 31 Jul]* 35
Iran: Navy Says U.S. Taking Bribes To Allow Iraqi Oil Exports *[IRNA]* 36
Iran: Khamene'i Receives Turkish Premier, Welcomes New Government *[Tehran TV]* 37
Iran: Commentary Says Turkey's Erbakan Visit of 'Immense Importance' *[HAMSHAHRI 13 Aug]* 37
Iran: U.S. Opposition to Turkey's Erbakan's Visit, Agreements Viewed *[Tehran International]* 38
Iran: Paper Discusses Implications of Turkey's Erbakan Visit *[SALAM 10 Aug]* 39
Iran: Daily Comments on Value of Gas Agreement With Turkey *[IRNA]* 40
Iran: Minister—No Specific Security Problem in Kurdestan *[IRNA]* 40
Iran: Daily Welcomes Opening of Pakistani Embassy in Kabul *[IRNA]* 40
Iran: Officials Attend Ceremony To Exchange Bodies With Iraq *[Tehran TV]* 41
Iran: Hashemi-Rafsanjani Lauded as Competent, 'Priceless Asset' *[ETTELA'AT 31 Jul]* 41
Iran: Commentator Continues Defense of Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[ETTELA'AT 1 Aug]* 42
Iran: Sepah Bank Chief on Deposits, Misappropriated Funds *[IRNA]* 43
Iran: Commentary Sees Need To Boost Production To Halt Inflation *[ABRAR 5 Aug]* 43
Iran: Habibi Urges Diplomats Abroad To Promote Non-Oil Products *[IRNA]* 44
Iran: Daily—Rational Policy Needed To Boost Non-Oil Exports *[IRNA]* 45
Iran: Editorial Assesses Decline in Exports *[RESALAT 6 Aug]* 45
Iran: Police Round Up 65,000 Unlicensed Weapons in Amnesty *[IRNA]* 46
Iran: American Lecturer Accuses Liberal Publication of Forgery *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 8 Aug]* 46
Iran: Drug Smuggling Ring Smashed in Shiraz *[IRNA]* 46

Pakistan

Pakistan: Bhutto's Delivers Optimistic Independence Day Address *[Islamabad TV]* 47
Pakistan: Many Killed in Karachi Shooting; Leaders Condemn Incident *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 51
Pakistan: Visiting Afghan Delegation Meets Benazir Bhutto *[Kabul Radio]* 51
Pakistan: Joint Communique Issued on Afghan Delegation's Talks *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Pakistan: Turkish Prime Minister Holds Talks With Bhutto, Leghari *[Islamabad Radio]* 52
Pakistan: Daily Reports on Corps Commanders' Meeting *[NAWA-I-WAQT 13 Aug]* 52

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Sends Message to Clinton on Israeli 'Violations'

JN1408170696 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat sent a message to U.S. President Bill Clinton today, reviewing the most significant Israeli violations of the agreements signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides.

The president spoke about the dangers that threaten the peace process in light of the Israeli measures, particularly on settlements. He pointed to the clear U.S. stand on this issue, as well as the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

The president called on the U.S. President to play an effective role in forcing Israel to abide by the peace process and its requirements.

The president's message to President Clinton reads: The Cairo Arab summit reiterated the Arab commitment to the peace process to achieve a just, comprehensive, and lasting peace. The summit gave the Netanyahu-led Israeli Government a chance to resume the peace process and to safeguard the achievements which have been made.

In his message, the president says: The Israeli practices on the ground, particularly lifting restrictions on settlement activity in the Palestinian Arab territories clearly show that Israel cares less about the dangers posed to the peace process. This also creates an atmosphere of insecurity, negativeness, and a lack of confidence in the entire peace process.

His excellency notes that the Israeli settlement measures clearly conflict with the spirit and requirements of peace and pose a real danger to the future of the territories and the Christian and Islamic holy places, particularly occupied Jerusalem.

In his message, the president expressed his confidence in U.S. President Bill Clinton, saying: Your intervention will greatly contribute to advancing the peace process and to achieving a just and lasting peace between the Palestinian Arab and Israeli peoples.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Accepts al-Qadhdhafi Invitation To Visit Libya

MM1508110296 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Aug 96 p 5

[Report by Ashraf al-Faqiyy in Cairo: "'Arafat Will Attend Ceremonies To Commemorate the Libyan Revolution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has received an invitation from Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to visit Libya and attend the Jamahiriyah's ceremonies commemorating the 27th anniversary of the 1 September revolution. A Palestinian source who has recently returned from Gaza told AL-HAYAH that President 'Arafat has accepted the invitation.

The invitation to 'Arafat to visit Libya follows an improvement in relations between the two countries after al-Qadhdhafi met with 'Arafat in Cairo, thanks to Egypt's mediation, on the fringes of the Arab League meetings in Cairo last June. The source said that, at their meeting, al-Qadhdhafi and 'Arafat will discuss the situation of the (30,000) Palestinian workers, and that 'Arafat is trying to get al-Qadhdhafi to agree to let them stay in the Jamahiriyah until an agreement for their return to the Palestinian Authority areas is reached.

Meanwhile, a Libyan official contacted by AL-HAYAH from Cairo has denied that al-Qadhdhafi suffered from a coronary thrombosis, and stressed that al-Qadhdhafi is in good health and is carrying on with his activities as normal. He described reports of the Libyan leader's illness as part of the hostile campaign against his country.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Says Israel 'Not Serious' About Peace Process

JN1408155296 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Local Government Minister Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat said that the reported Israeli plan to redeploy [its forces] in Hebron Governorate are wholly unacceptable. Dr. 'Urayqat said this to our correspondent in Gaza Governorate, 'Adil al-Za'nun, in reaction to the plan Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay is scheduled to present to the Israeli prime minister today. The Israeli plan views Hebron as Area B, contrary to the accords with the previous Israeli Government.

Dr. 'Urayqat said that Israel is negotiating with itself and delaying the start of the Higher Steering Committee talks. This proves that Israel is not serious about the peace process and does not respect its commitments and pledges, he said.

'Urayqat said that the National Authority will launch an extensive diplomatic campaign in the Arab and international arenas to explain the dangers of Israel's procrastination.

Palestinian Affairs: Hamas Meeting Abroad Aims To Secure 'Unified Working Plan'

TA1408153596 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Aug 96 pp 1, 7

[Report by Mustafa al-Sawwaf]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza, AL-NAHAR Documentation and Media Office — A reliable, informed

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

source in Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has declared that the meeting of Hamas leaders from the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Hamas leaders abroad will probably be held in Cairo.

This source, who preferred to remain anonymous, added that the Hamas delegation is ready to travel abroad to meet with the movement's leaders if the travel measures are facilitated by the security services. [passage omitted]

The source added that in the wake of the delegation's trip to meet with Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and Hamas leaders in the West Bank and after the degree of rapprochement in views between the West Bank and Gaza Strip regarding the reality has been clarified, the delegation will have a larger impact on securing a broader understanding with the movement's leadership abroad.

This source stressed that the delegation that will travel abroad will not repeat the Cairo experience, which resulted in nothing of significance between the Authority and Hamas. Courageous agreement and decisionmaking are needed to put the movement on the right track.

The source added that the aim of this meeting is to present a draft plan or a general perception of Hamas regarding all the general and special subjects, including relations with the National Authority, the movement's image, military action, and other important and sensitive issues.

The source expressed the hope that the Hamas leaders from inside and abroad will agree on reaching a unified working plan for the movement which will serve as the basis for practical moves in the field. This would serve the general Palestinian interest and the movement's special interest in setting its ranks in order and reshuffling its cards.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Israeli-Palestinian Civilian Committee Meets

JN1408171296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1450 GMT 14 Aug 96

[From the "With the Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Higher Joint Israeli-Palestinian Civilian Committee resumed its meetings at the King David Hotel today after a six-month hiatus. The conferees agreed to activate the work of the subcommittees that emanated from the committee. For its part, Israel complained about the Palestinian violations of the accord in the civilian area. More details are contained in the following report by Yasir 'Atilah, our correspondent for West Bank affairs:

[Begin recording] ['Atilah] The Higher Joint Israeli-Palestinian Civilian Committee held an expanded meeting at the King David Hotel in Jerusalem today under the cochairmanship of Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of Israeli activities in the territories, and attorney Jamil al-Tarifi, official in charge of civilian affairs in the Palestinian Authority, and members of both delegations. This is the first committee meeting after a six-month hiatus in the aftermath of the attacks in Jerusalem and Ashqelon in February.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a host of issues related to the implementation of the agreement in the civilian area. Attorney Jamil al-Tarifi described the meeting as highly important. He added that it reflects the continuation of the negotiations between the Israelis and Palestinians. Al-Tarifi also spoke about a message he relayed to Maj. Gen. Shahor to be communicated to the prime minister. The message expresses the Palestinian side's opposition to settlement activities. Al-Tarifi spoke to us about the issues discussed at the meeting, saying:

[Al-Tarifi] The meeting, by itself, is important because it reflects a resumption of the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. We had a very long agenda. The first topic on the agenda concerned a message given to the Israeli side for Maj. Gen. Oren Shahor to relay to the Israeli Government and the Israeli prime minister. The gist of the message is that the peace process is incompatible with the continuation of settlement activities. The message says that we are opposed to the Israeli Government's decision to unfreeze settlement expansion.

Maj. Gen. Shahor promised to communicate this message to the Israeli defense minister and prime minister. We told him that this situation is serious and dangerous. We also expressed our opposition to the demolition of houses. A Palestinian-Israeli committee will follow up work on this issue. We agreed to activate the work of all subcommittees as of next week. We also agreed to continue Palestinian-Israeli meetings to bring about the implementation of the agreement.

['Atilah] Do you believe that this meeting will produce concrete results, as you hoped for prior to the meeting?

[Al-Tarifi] I hope so. We have arranged for the talks tomorrow to address issues related to the Gaza airport. We also arranged for several meetings on the crossings and other issues next week.

[Shahor, in Hebrew with superimposed Arabic translation] The meeting did not address the settlement issue. Instead, we discussed issues related to the formation of various committees, the crossings, the security cordon, and the free movement of the persons holding VIP cards. A working plan has been devised for the coming weeks.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

We touched on the Palestinian violations of the agreement. The Palestinian side took notes. The Palestinian side is aware of the importance we attach to security. Each side hopes for concrete and practical moves to ensure continued progress on the Israeli-Palestinian track from where the negotiations left off. [end recording]

Arab-Israeli Talks: 'Asfur Says Jerusalem Meeting 'Produced Nothing New'

JN1408191996 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At a meeting held by the Higher Civilian Committee at noon today, the Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed to convene a second committee meeting in two weeks to discuss the results of subcommittee meetings that will begin tomorrow.

Hasan 'Asfur, director general of the Negotiations Department, said that a Palestinian-Israeli meeting will be held at Gaza International Airport tomorrow to discuss issues related to the opening of the airport. Another meeting will be held at the al-Karamah crossing on 16 August to discuss ways to facilitate travel.

In a statement to our radio, 'Asfur added that other meetings will be held on 18 and 20 August to discuss issues related to the movement of people.

The Palestinian and Israeli sides met in Jerusalem today for the first time in six months. The meetings were chaired by Civilian Affairs Minister Jamil al-Tarifi and Oren Shahor, coordinator of the occupation army's activities in the territories. The two sides discussed all outstanding issues, foremost of which are settlement activities, the demolition of houses, the military siege that obstructs the movement of people, and the economic impact of this siege.

During the meeting, the Israeli side was handed a letter of protest from His Excellency President Yasir 'Arafat on Israeli activities and the demolition of houses. The Palestinian side requested that the letter be delivered to Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

'Asfur described today's meeting as a resumption of the talks at the ministerial level. He added that today's meeting produced nothing new. He pointed out that the Israeli side evaded giving clear answers about several topics that were discussed.

Arab-Israeli Talks: Details of Israeli-Palestinian Civilian Committee Viewed

TA1408122596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian Supreme Civilian Committee in Jerusalem is over. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the committee decided to reactivate its subcommittees in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. The two sides will tour the border crossings next week to examine an additional easing of the current restrictions imposed on the Palestinians.

The Israelis rejected a Palestinian initiative to discuss the settlement issues. For its part, Israel presented a series of Palestinian violations of the agreement in the civilian sphere, such as illegal construction in Area C, failure to pay the Palestinian Authority's [PA] debts to Israeli hospitals, and the illegal stay of Palestinian visitors in PA areas.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Algeria

Algeria: EL WATAN Reports Security Forces Kill 16 Islamists

LD1408172796 Paris Radio France International in French 1630 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria the daily EL WATAN has reported the death of 16 Islamist activists in clashes with the security forces. According to the daily, six of them were suspected in connection with the murder of Pierre Claverie, the bishop of Oran.

Algeria: Committee To Prepare for National Debate on Economic Policy

LD1008212896 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 10 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Youcef Yousfi, director of the president's office, today at 1500 at the presidency, has installed a preparatory committee for the national debate on economic development and policy.

The committee is comprised of representatives of the presidency, government, National Economic and Social Council, General Union of Algerian Workers, and employers. In addition to the institutions and organizations represented in the preparation committee, the political parties and economic operators were also invited to this seminar, as well as university staff and experts.

The debate will focus on the major issues concerning the national economy, such as financing the economy, restructuring industry, agricultural development, housing, and urban development, in addition to questions connected to social policy.

This debate is scheduled to be held after the tripartite meeting and the national accord conference.

Sudan

Sudan: MENA Reports Coup Attempt Foiled Over 'Past Few Days'

NC1408173096 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1724 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 14 Aug (MENA)—A MENA correspondent in Khartoum has learned that the Sudanese security authorities foiled a new attempt to overthrow the regime during the past few days.

The correspondent also learned that 10 officers involved in the attempt, including six retired major generals and four serving officers with the rank of major, have been arrested.

Sources said that the officers involved in the failed coup attempt, about whom there is not much information, have links with the opposition Sudanese alliance forces led by Brigadier General 'Abdallah [passage indistinct].

Sudan: Foreign Minister Accuses Asmara of Escalating Border Hostilities

MM1408155096 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 14 Aug 96 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Eritrea Is Carrying Out a Plan for Starting Border Clashes; Sadiq al-Mahdi Has No 'Magic Remedy' All the Time"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a statement to AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI, Sudanese Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha stressed that Eritrea is carrying out a plan aimed at starting border clashes and depleting Sudan's resources. The Sudanese minister accused the Asmara regime of escalating hostilities and military provocations on their common borders, and stressed that the Sudanese people are prepared to repel any new attack. 'Uthman Taha's statement coincided with reports of a land mine explosion in the city of Kassala, the capital of the border region with Eritrea, which destroyed a truck, killing its driver and wounding five other people. [passage omitted]

On Sadiq al-Mahdi's position with regard to the efforts toward internal accord, the foreign minister said: "We welcome a dialogue with al-Mahdi, on condition that there is a new understanding with a more objective view of changes in the country, and that everyone should abandon their pessimistic attitudes and personal wishes." In this context, he pointed out that the obstacle to an understanding with Sadiq al-Mahdi rests in his attachment to a certain formula which he has been advocating since the uprising and which cannot provide a magic remedy for all ills all the time. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: Saudi Arabia Signs Chemical Weapons Ban Treaty

LD1408210296 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1719 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Hague, 14 Aug — The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has signed the Convention on the Prohibition, of Chemical Weapons, based in the Hague.

Riyadh delivered the endorsement documents to the UN secretary general on 9 August. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Minister Views Economic Improvement, Falling Payments Deficit

LD1408202796 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1447 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Riyadh, 14 Aug — Minister of Finance and National Economy Dr. Ibrahim Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Assaf has announced that preliminary indicators showed that the growth rate of the gross domestic product forecast for this year, 1996, might reach 6.2 percent compared with 4.2 percent during 1995.

In a press statement on the kingdom's current performance issued today, his excellency made clear that there were clear indications of increases in private sector production and in industrial investment. He said that there were also indications of a continued strong performance in the banking sector and an increase in the profits of joint-stock companies.

Dr. Assaf reaffirmed that the indications available on the current performance of Saudi economy clearly underlined the success of the policy implemented by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on the directives of the custodian of the two holy mosques and the crown prince during the last few years. This policy, he said focused on rationalization of government expenditure and support for private sector, and its positive impact has started to show on the national economy. He added that these indications also showed that the national economy has started to emerge from the effects of the Kuwait liberation war and the fall in oil prices.

His excellency the minister of finance and national economy said the great improvement recorded in the balance of payments was further proof of the good performance of the Saudi economy.

He pointed out that as a result of this policy and looking into the transactions of the balance of payments, the great deficits of the last few years have started to decrease gradually.

His excellency revealed that the balance of trade surplus has risen and the deficit in the current transactions' account has fallen significantly. He said that initial signs indicate that it is approaching a state of equilibrium.

Dr. Assaf said that the deficit in the first half of 1996 fell to just $500 million, compared to a deficit of $17.3 billion in 1993, $10.5 billion in 1994, and $8.1 billion in 1995.

He attributed the big improvement to a rise in the value of petroleum products and the persistence of a significant growth in non-petroleum products, which went up by 10 percent in the first half of this year compared to the first half of 1995. He said that imports also rose during the same period.

Dr. Ibrahim al-Assaf, minister of finance and national economy, stressed that the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, under the leadership of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and his trusty crown prince, will continue to follow the economic policies that distinguished the government's economic performance over the past few years, which focused on putting right the financial state with a view to achieving the required financial balance.

Yemen

Yemen: Yemen Demands 'Immediate Eritrean Withdrawal' From Disputed Island

NC1508080696 Paris AFP in English 0809 GMT 15 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sanaa, Aug 15 (AFP) — Yemen on Thursday [15 August] demanded an immediate Eritrean withdrawal from a disputed island in the Red Sea and called for peace-broker France to intervene.

"Eritrea must evacuate the island immediately," a Yemeni official told AFP. "And countries involved in mediation between the two countries, notably France, have to make an effort to see that this is done."

"Yemen is committed to a diplomatic solution and it is confident that such a solution is possible," said the official who asked not to be identified.

Sanaa has accused Asmara of seizing the uninhabited island of Lesser Hanish on Saturday in violation of a French-brokered accord on May 21 to settle their dispute by peaceful means.

Eritrea has denied the charge.

Mediation efforts were launched Wednesday in New York, with a senior aide to UN Secretary General

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Butros Butros-Ghali meeting Yemeni charge d'affaires Hamid 'Ubaydi and his Eritrean counterpart Ghirmai Ghebremariam, UN sources said.

According to diplomats, French officials were expected to meet with Eritrean and Yemeni representatives in Asmara and Sanaa in a bid to resolve the crisis.

Under the May accord, the two countries agreed to find a peaceful settlement and submit their long-running dispute over the Hanish peninsula to international arbitration.

The Hanish islands control access to the Bab al-Mandab straits at the entrance to the Red Sea and its oil traffic. Sovereignty over the islands, a former Ottoman possession, has never been decided by international convention.

Yemen: Yemen, Eritrea Deny Clashes on Hanish Island, Swap Accusations

MM1408141096 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 96 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Abd-al-Salam Tahir in Aden, Khalil Matar in New York, Faris al-Salman in Kuwait, and AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London and Paris: "Accusations of 'Bad Intentions' Between Yemen and Eritrea Over Hanish"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday, Yemeni and Eritrean sources denied that an armed clash between the two countries' forces took place on the disputed Hanish archipelago. However, France, which is monitoring the military situation there, neither denied nor confirmed the report. An official spokesman would only say that his country has passed the relevant information on to the United Nations.

Despite denials by official sources in Asmara and Sanaa of any military moves, both sides accused each other of evil intentions and of tampering with the arbitration agreement ratified between them on 21 May 1996 in Paris.

Responding to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT's question, French Foreign Ministry Spokesman Yves Doutriaux said that, in accordance with the arbitration agreement giving France the task of monitoring the situation, Paris has passed all the relevant information to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. Asked whether this means that he is confirming these incidents, he said: "You have to draw your own conclusions. We have given the details in our possession to the UN General Secretariat, and it is up to it to take whatever measures it deems necessary."

Asked how France has been monitoring the situation, Doutriaux said: "This task is being performed thanks to the resources and capabilities of the French Army stationed in Djibouti."

In Sanaa, reliable Yemeni sources, speaking to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, denied knowledge of any military clashes or confrontations taking place on the Yemeni islands of Hanish al-Sughra or Zuqar. These sources, however, accused Eritrea of trying to bypass the arbitration agreement, pointing out that it has hampered the meetings of both sides' delegations in the presence of the mediating sides, including the French side, which is the sponsor of the mediation. The sources said that these attempts came after Yemen presented its convincing documents confirming its rights over the island, and because the date for the outcome of the arbitration — once the arbitration court has been formed in October — is drawing near.

Yemen presented to the Arab League and the United Nations two memorandums protesting the fact that Eritrea had, according to some reports, produced a new map for investments showing the areas for oil investment in the Red Sea, areas which are under Yemeni sovereignty, including the Hanish-Zuqar area, and that this is part of Asmara's attempt to change the situation in the area.

In a telephone interview conducted by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT with an official source in Asmara, the source confirmed that Asmara has not made any military move after ratifying the agreement of the arbitration principles on 21 may 1996.

He stressed that the Eritrean side is bound by the text and spirit of the agreement of principles, and that he does not see any other framework than international arbitration with the participation of France, Ethiopia, and Egypt, and witnessed by the United Nations, the OAU, and the Arab League, to resolve the conflict over the Zuqar-Hanish archipelago.

The source said that, under the terms of the agreement of principles, France is responsible for monitoring the military situation on the archipelago, which should remain as it is until the yet-to-be-formed international court issues its ruling on which of the two countries has the right to this geographic area.

Concluding his statement, the source said that "Yemeni leaks indicate that some Yemeni quarters have evil intentions."

In Kuwait, Eritrean Ambassador Ahmad 'Ali Burhan stressed that Asmara is firmly committed to the agreement of principles ratified with Yemen. In a statement of which AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has received a copy,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

he said that there has been absolutely no exchange of fire between the two sides since the agreement was signed. He added that since both countries had agreed on France assuming the responsibility of monitoring the implementation of the agreement in the conflict area, France would not have kept quiet had there been any violation by either side.

Burhan said: "We urge the quarters which are leaking such reports to stop their constant attempts to distort the facts and create tension."

In New York, diplomatic sources said that the Yemeni side had told those involved in the conflict that Eritrea has invaded Hanish al-Sughra island, but did not ask to register an official complaint. The sources indicated that UN officials have asked the Eritrean side for clarification and that they denied any military moves in the Red Sea and Hanish island area. The Eritrean side informed the UN secretary general's office that the French observers would know best what is happening there, and that the observers had not indicated that there were any such moves, which they would have noticed had they actually taken place. Sources in the Eritrean mission told AL- SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Asmara is committed to the agreement of principles ratified in Paris, which means that Hanish al-Sughra has been under Eritrean control since the beginning of the crisis, that Yemen is aware of this fact, and that this, according to the sources, is nothing new.

UN sources said that the French military observers' reports show that they have not monitored any military moves, maneuvers, or equipment, only some civilians moving in the area.

Meanwhile, Yemeni sources said that Hanish al-Sughra is uninhabited and it would be difficult from a military viewpoint for Eritrean forces to control it, because it is within range of Zuqar island, where the Yemeni forces are stationed.

Yemen: Salih Interviewed on Saudi Ties, GCC Membership Issue

JN1408204596 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Aug 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Lieutenant General President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih said that our country has witnessed many political and social transformations since the restoration of the homeland's unity, especially after the defeat of the secessionist plot. He noted that the most salient transformation is the national cohesion, represented in consolidating and strengthening the Yemeni Unity, rebuilding the Armed Forces and Security forces on a national basis, reconstructing what the war destroyed, implementing the economic reform program, and the current steps to rebuild the modern Yemeni state. This came in an interview published in the latest issue of the magazine ADWA' AL-YAMAN.

The president said that the campaign against corruption and indiscipline is continuing, that several measures have been taken, and that numerous elements causing corruption have been referred to the prosecutor and to the judiciary. He said the state is determined to get rid of this serious ailment. [passage omitted]

The president said that the Yemen-Saudi relations are proceeding in the right direction. He said: All of us in the two countries' leaderships would like to see excellent relations, because our relations are deeply rooted in the history of the Arabian Peninsula.

The president said: I have said on more than one occasion that we in Yemen are not satisfied with the committees' work, which has been characterized by slow movement. This prompted me to demand a summit level meeting or a meeting on the joint higher committee level to decide many of the issues that hinder the work of the committee and to overcome obstacles with the aim of realize objectives set in the memorandum of understanding, realizing a just solution of the border issue that is satisfactory to both side—a solution based on the principle that no side will be harmed. [passage omitted]

Asked on the possibility of Yemen joining the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] and whether a request was made for Yemen's membership, the president said: Yemen occupies a basic and important position in the Arabian Peninsula and Arabian Gulf region. Through this position, Yemen represents a basic and a strategic part that cannot be ignored. Yemen's natural position is within the sisterly states of the GCC. This matter is up to the brother leaders of the GCC.

In this regard, the president said that throughout its history and whether within the GCC or outside it, Yemen has always shouldered its pan-Arab responsibilities and has been committed to all the requirements imposed on it by its brotherly, pan-Arab relations.

The interview dealt with a number of political and economic issues, problems of interest to Yemen and its relations with sisterly and friendly countries.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iraq: Turkish Ministers Say Country Seeking To Lift Embargo

JN1408113496 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0645 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—Two Turkish ministers stressed that the Turkish Government is seriously working to lift the embargo imposed on Iraq because of the very difficult economic conditions it produced, not only for Iraq, but also for their country.

In statements published by AL-THAWRAH here today, the two Turkish officials said the visit by their team, which includes officials from the Ministries of Health, Trade, and Justice, aims to strengthen the ties of economic and commercial cooperation to achieve the interests and welfare of the two friendly peoples.

Turkish Justice Minister Sevket Kazan said the ties between Iraq and Turkey are good despite the problems caused by the embargo. He said the visits exchanged by officials in the two countries aim to overcome these obstacles and restore ties to their previous state, and improve them, by setting a common program to overcome difficulties.

Education Minister Professor Mehmet Saglam said Turkey is working to restore commercial ties with Iraq to their pre-1990 level by trying to obtain approval from the United Nations to implement Paragraph 50 of the UN Charter and allow it to have large-scale commercial dealings with Iraq.

Official Iraqi-Turkish talks on joint cooperation started here yesterday to follow up the agreements on bilateral cooperation signed between the two countries and discuss means to enhance cooperation and develop economic relations.

Several commercial Turkish delegations visited Iraq after the signing of the memorandum of understanding with the United Nations on 20 May to hold talks on ways to strengthen and expand commercial and industrial exchange in the light of the memorandum of understanding. The latest of these delegations, headed by Najat Aran [name as transliterated], adviser on Turkish foreign relations, visited Iraq in June. The delegation included 110 persons from the official and private sectors and representatives of pharmaceutical and food companies and banks.

Iraq: Deputy Foreign Minister, Turkish Ministers Discuss Reviving Relations

JN1408120796 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—Deputy Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz today received the Turkish delegation led by Justice Minister Sevket Kazan. The talks dealt with relations between the two friendly countries, reiterating the need to restore them to their previous prosperous level to serve the national interests of both friendly countries and peoples.

Tariq 'Aziz touched on Iraq's relationship with the Security Council and its implementation of substantial obligations imposed on it. This, 'Aziz added, requires that the Security Council fulfill its reciprocal obligations, particularly lifting the unjust blockade which has harmed many countries, including Turkey, which have common interests with Iraq, in addition to the painful humanitarian effects resulting from the blockade.

Commenting on what was presented by the delegation regarding Turkey's serious efforts to follow up its request to benefit from Article 50 of the Charter, the deputy prime minister said: The countries, which are harmed by the siege, have the right to resort to this article to remove the damage. This, 'Aziz added, is a sovereign right that falls within the framework of international legitimacy.

Kezan reaffirmed Turkey's desire to develop relations and to restore them to their previous level for the wellbeing and interest of the two Muslim neighbors.

Mehmet Saglam, Turkish education minister and member of the delegation, expressed pleasure at the visit and the good results which were achieved on the various levels,

The Turkish delegation comprises representatives of the two ruling allies in Turkey, the Welfare Party and the True Path Party.

Iraq: Saddam Husayn Receives Visiting Turkish Ministers

JN1408163596 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1551 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received friendly Turkey's Justice Minister Sevket Kazan and Education Minister Mehmet Saglam.

During the meeting, Turkish Justice Minister Kazan said that the new Turkish Government and its two leaders, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan and Tansu Ciller, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, are determined to promote Turkish relations with Iraq in all fields that serve the interests of the two neighbors.

President Saddam Husayn stressed that, in recent decades, Iraq has been eager to establish the closest relations with neighborly Turkey on the basis of mutual respect and the principles of independence and common

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

interests. He stressed that this rule, which governs Iraq's foreign relations, will continue to steer Iraq's policies toward Turkey under all circumstances.

His excellency said that success in achieving good relations between the two neighborly countries depends on following an independent policy that proceeds from the interests of the two countries and peoples, rather than being influenced by others.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz.

Iraq: Trade Agreement With Turkey Signed

JN1408203796 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1915 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 14 Aug (INA)—Iraq and Turkey signed the minutes of a bilateral trade agreement this evening.

The minutes were signed by the Iraqi oil minister, Lieutenant General 'Amir Muhammad Rashid, and the Turkish justice minister, Sevket Kazan. Members of the Iraqi and Turkish delegations attended the signing ceremony.

In an address, the oil minister stressed that the talks with the Turkish delegation reflected the deep historical relations between the two neighborly countries and peoples and their joint desire to promote economic and trade cooperation and to return it to its past status.

For his part, Turkish Education Minister Mehmet Saglam said that the Turkish delegation's visit to Iraq has shown the two countries' desire to promote their economic and political relations for the benefit of the two neighborly peoples.

The minutes provide for expanding trade between the two countries and Turkish companies' contribution to supply Iraq with goods in accordance with the memorandum of understanding signed between Iraq and the United Nations in May.

Turkish Justice Minister Sevket Kazan stressed that his country submitted a request to the UN security Council on 5 August to implement Article 50 of the UN Charter or to be compensated from the UN own revenues for the losses Turkey has sustained as a result of the blockade imposed on Iraq more than six years ago.

In a press statement to international correspondents, news agencies, television stations, and INA, Kazan said that the blockade imposed on Iraq has also harmed Turkish interests. He indicated that the Turkish Government will make intensive efforts with the United Nations and Islamic states to lift the blockade imposed on Iraq.

The Turkish minister criticized the double standards being applied in the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions. He referred in this regard to the Zionist entity's intransigent policy and its refusal to implement the UN resolutions in light of the UN Security Council's inability to make any decision on this policy.

Sevket Kazan noted the prosperous economic relations between Iraq and Turkey that existed before the imposition of the unfair blockade.

He said that the memorandum of understanding signed this evening will boost the volume of trade to higher levels.

Iraq: Turkish Ministers Conclude Visit; Next Talks Scheduled for 20 Sep

TA1408184796 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1700 GMT 14 Aug 96

[Video report by Kandemir Alphan from Baghdad]

[FBIS Translated Text] The minutes of an agreement in connection with the official talks Justice Minister Sevket Kazan and National Education Minister Mehmet Saglam have been holding with Iraqi officials for the past two days have been signed in Baghdad. The protocol was signed by Kazan and Saglam on behalf of Turkey and by Iraqi Oil Minister 'Amir Muhammad Rashid and Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih. The protocol envisages cooperation and the development of bilateral relations in all fields, especially in the field of border trade.

In a statement after the signing ceremony, Saglam said that the Turkish delegation held positive contacts in Baghdad and that it was received by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today. Noting that they share the same views with the Iraqi administrators on opening the Karkuk-Yumurtalik oil pipeline as soon as possible, Saglam added that an agreement has also been reached on activating the Habur border gate and, if necessary, opening a second gate. He noted that both countries are opposed to terrorism and that they may closely cooperate with regard to terrorism and the situation in northern Iraq.

The Iraqi oil minister said that high-level talks will be held between the two countries on 20 September in a bid to discuss the issues on which a unity of views has been reached.

Speaking at a news conference after the signing ceremony, Kazan said that the embargo imposed on Iraq is unjust and that it can damage the reliability of the United Nations. Noting that the UN Security Council

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

is not being just in the implementation of its resolutions, Kazan said that the resolutions adopted against Israel are implemented in a [words indistinct] than those adopted against Iraq. He added: The fact that the committee that supervises the implementation of the resolutions adopted in relation to Iraq flies in and out of Iraq, while the [words indistinct] and the Iraqi people can still not fly over Iraqi territories casts, above all, a shadow over the UN attitude. According to the UN Charter, this embargo should not carry such obstacles. The new Turkish Government will do all it can to lift this embargo.

Kazan and Saglam later held separate meetings with their Iraqi counterparts. The Turkish delegation, which has concluded its official visit, will leave Baghdad via the highway tomorrow morning.

Iraq: Opposition Says Dhi Qar Villages Bombed in Late Jul

JN1408144196 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The representative of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] to the UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva revealed that a number of areas in al-Nasiriyah [Dhi Qar] Governorate came under violent artillery shelling late last month by the Saddam regime, resulting in many casualties. The representative said this will affect the UN humanitarian and food aid to the population of those areas. This came in a statement read by the SAIRI representative before the Commission on Human Rights. He stressed that villages in al-Nasiriyah Governorate came under a violent artillery shelling from 22 July-1 August by regime troops, resulting in human losses and heavy material damages.

'Ali al-'Addad offered a proposal drawn up by SAIRI to implement Resolution 986. He also urged a UN initiative to force Saddam's regime to withdraw the troops that are besieging the marshlands area so that the United Nations will be able to fairly distribute humanitarian aid in the southern areas. He also demanded that favorable circumstances be made available in the south for the return of the refugees who fled to Iran. He stressed that many refugees need urgent care.

Iraq: PUK Says KDP Colludes With Iraqi Regime To Obtain Arms

NC1408185296 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman at the Central Information Bureau of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] has stated the following: For several days, members of the [Kurdistan Democratic] Party [KDP] at roadblocks between Salah al-Din resort and Irbil have been banning the movement of civilians under the pretext that the PUK intends to disturb the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the KDP's establishment. Thus, the KDP is obstructing normal life and the exchange of visits among citizens. These practices, furthermore, deepen the rift between the two regions, which are controlled by the two sides, and greatly harm the economic interests of the citizens who depend on trade in this region. Banning the entry of foodstuffs also raises prices and interrupts market movement.

We ask: If the objective, as given by the KDP's leadership, is to maintain security during the celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the KDP, and if the objective is not to perpetuate the economic war — this leadership continues to loot the revenues of the Ibrahim al-Khalil customs point — why does the KDP not prevent traffic and movement between the regions under its control and the regions under the control of the dictatorial regime in Baghdad? We further ask: Which is the source of threat to the security and stability of the regions under the KDP's control: the Iraqi regime or the PUK? By all national standards, the PUK is a nationalist force; it cannot be viewed as the KDP's chief enemy.

Do these measures really seek to maintain security and stability, or to covertly harm the people of Kurdistan and to collude with the regime so that the road of trade and relations with the regime will remain open for the KDP to bring weapons and military equipment?

Iraq: Remains of Soldiers Killed in War Exchanged With Iran

JN1308153696 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 13 Aug (INA)—Iraq and Iran today exchanged the remains of soldiers [killed during the 1980-1988 war] in the al-Mundhiriyah area in the Diyala Governorate on the Iraq-Iran border. This was the third batch of remains to be exchanged in accordance with the Tehran agreement signed by the two countries on 14 September to resolve the issues related to POW's and MIA's.

The remains of the Iraqi martyrs, which were wrapped in Iraqi flags, were delivered in a funeral ceremony while the military band played a dirge.

The funeral ceremony was witnessed by correspondents of world television networks and news agencies, as well as the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY.

The first and second batches of the remains of Iraqi and Iranian soldiers were exchanged last October and June.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Israel: Defense Minister To Meet 'Arafat Next Week, Offers To Meet Syrians

TA1508103596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 15 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The defense minister will meet with Yasir 'Arafat next week to discuss ways of implementing the Hebron redeployment plan and the changes Israel wishes to introduce in the agreement. Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay is pleased with the resumption of the dialogue with the Palestinians and believes it should be pursued in every sphere.

Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the defense minister said he is willing to meet with Syrian representatives in Lebanon's B'abda Palace at any time, in order to discuss Lebanon First and other matters.

Israel: Netanyahu Attorney Appointed Special Envoy to 'Arafat

TA1508080496 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Aug 96 p 2

[Report by Ben Kaspit]

[FBIS Translated Text] Attorney Yitzhaq Molko, a close friend of Binyamin Netanyahu and his attorney, was recently appointed the prime minister's special envoy to Palestinian Authority [PA] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat.

Toward the end of the Peres government the job of envoy-mediator was fulfilled by Yosi Ginosar. Since his appointment Molko has been visiting Gaza at least twice a week in Netanyahu's service. He recently handed 'Arafat a message that no progress would be made in the political negotiations and on Hebron before he closes five Palestinian institutions in East Jerusalem.

Attorney Molko is in charge of ongoing contacts between Israel and the PA and is holding daily contacts with his Palestinian interlocutors. Dore Gold, the prime minister's political adviser, continues to maintain telephone contact with senior PA officials. Molko will apparently not be a member of the various committees to be set up with the Palestinians, but will remain an envoy and personal intermediary between Netanyahu and 'Arafat.

Israel: Netanyahu Views Hebron Redeployment, Hizballah's Katyushas

TA1508080996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 15 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu says the Hebron arrangement must be based on security, and he believes this is also the preeminent interest of the Palestinian Authority and of 'Arafat. The prime minister said the defense minister had been requested to present the ministers at today's meeting with several options for an arrangement that will permit agreements to be honored, at the same time tackling the complicated issue of security in Hebron. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports that the prime minister made these remarks during a ceremony marking the transfer of the Religious Affairs Ministry to Minister Eli Suissa, the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] representative.

Referring to the katyushas in the north, the prime minister noted that we have no concrete, clear-cut information indicating that Hizballah possesses long-range katyushas. Mr. Netanyahu noted, however, that anyone using such weapons will be dealt a blow sevenfold stronger.

Israel: Defense Minister Warns Lebanon Against 'Any' Fire, Attack

TA1408160596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1505 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Does Hizballah really have upgraded katyushas with a range of 40 km, as the chief of staff told the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee yesterday, or does it not, as Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay stated this evening? Mordekhay said Israel has no evidence that Hizballah has acquired long-range rockets that allow it to reach deep into northern Israel. The defense minister toured the security zone in south Lebanon today, and our correspondent in the north Ilan Ro'e accompanied him.

[Begin recording] [Ro'e] Twenty-four hours after the chief of staff dropped a bombshell and warned about long-range rockets in the hands of Hizballah which threaten the suburbs of Haifa, 'Akko, and Karmi'el, the defense minister visited IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers in the security zone. After the snowball effect of the last 24 hours, the defense minister set out to set the record straight.

[Mordekhay] First of all, we do not know if there has been any change concerning the weapons at Hizballah's disposal. We know about the delivery of weapons to Lebanon, some of which reached Hizballah. I cannot tell — and I suppose the chief of staff said the same to the Knesset committee, and so did the commander of the Northern Command — we cannot tell that there are other additional threats from Lebanon to Israeli territory.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1530 GMT on 14 August adds: "The IDF spokesman has clarified that the chief of staff, too, told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday that there is no

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

confirmation that Hizballah has long-range katyushas, although there have been reports about weapons shipped from Iran to Lebanon."]

[Ro'e] Consequently, the defense minister refused to comment on possible scenarios in the event of such an attack. Nevertheless, he sent a clear warning to the Lebanese Government.

[Mordekhay] I hereby reiterate that Lebanon will be held primarily responsible for any fire or attack on Israeli citizens. Lebanon and anybody on Lebanese soil will not be immune from a strike by IDF and South Lebanese Army troops. If Israel's citizens are hurt or IDF soldiers are endangered, we have at our disposal all the necessary means to do what needs to be done.

[Ro'e] When we pressed him as to whether this also applies to the Syrian Army, the minister refused to cite an explicit name and emphasized that the reference is to any element threatening the well-being of Israel's citizens and soldiers.

As for the plans for redeployment in Hebron, the defense minister reacted to the statements of the National Religious Party and Tzomet reported in the media today by saying that only a handful of people are familiar with the plan, that when it is formulated in its final form it will be submitted for approval, and that he believes and hopes that the vast majority of the coalition will support the plan. Agreements must be honored, the minister concluded, on condition that security is upheld. [end recording]

Israel: Netanyahu Convenes Ministerial Meeting on Hebron 15 Aug

TA1508060896 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 96

[Studio talk between anchor Arye Golan and correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is today convening a special ministerial consultation on Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay's plan for IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in Hebron. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz is in the studio. Shlomo, is it the redeployment plan agreed upon with the Palestinian Authority?

[Raz] It is the same plan, but the emphases that this government has placed are different, with security being the paramount aspect. The plan was drafted by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Mordekhay after consultations with several defense establishment representatives. As I said, the plan highlights security aspects and features a different timetable, namely — the redeployment will take longer. As the Americans were told at the prime minister's meeting with President Clinton, the redeployment will be incremental [preceding word in English] — namely, phased. What it means is that the redeployment will take longer than agreed upon before the elections by former Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas].

Thus at 1800 [1500 GMT] tonight, the ministers will attend a discussion on the issue of Hebron in the prime minister's bureau. Barring unforeseen circumstances, the Netanyahu government will today begin to infuse real content into its statement that international agreements have to be honored. I have to remind you that the discussion does not mean that the actual evacuation of Hebron will begin tomorrow, but the government will today launch a lengthy process of negotiations with the Palestinians on the implementation of Minister Mordekhay's plan pending its approval by every relevant government forum. The group of ministers who will convene today will be apparently asked to approve the defense minister's Hebron redeployment plan in general terms.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 15 August adds that "the ministers invited to the consultation are Sharon, Meridor, and Mordekhay, as well as Refa'el Eytan, who received a special invitation. The meeting will convene shortly after Foreign Minister David Levi's return from New York, and he will be able to attend the meeting, should he so desire."]

There are several aspects incidental to the meeting tonight. One of these is the invitation extended to Minister Refa'el Eytan. Tzomet's implicit threats, which were uttered by National Religious Party Knesset Member [MK] Hanan Porat, and Tzomet MK's obvious dissatisfaction with the fact that former Chief of Staff Refa'el Eytan is being kept outside the consultations, paved his way to the meeting of the prestigious forum of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's kitchen.

And there is yet another aspect. Foreign Minister David Levi will land in Ben-Gurion Airport around 1700 today, and should he decide to attend the important meeting on Hebron, he can easily do so without exceeding legal speed limits. [passage omitted]

Israel: IDF Drafts 'Secret' Plan for Bypass Roads in West Bank

TA1508075496 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 96

[Studio talk between anchor Arye Golan and correspondent Gil Litman — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Golan] In recent weeks the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command submitted to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the deputy chief of staff and the Defense Ministry a detailed proposal for the construction of hundreds of kilometers of bypass roads in Judaea and Samaria at the cost of hundreds of millions of dollars. The Central Command proposal was put down in a thick brochure, which was printed in June and classified secret. Despite the secrecy, our correspondent Gil Litman was able to obtain a copy which we have right here in the studio. Good morning, Gil.

[Litman] Good morning, Arye. This brochure is obviously the product of hard labor. A thorough inspection reveals that the plans are detailed, the studies profound, and the writing extremely meticulous. This 51-page brochure was submitted to the deputy chief of staff, the director of the chief of staff's bureau, the coordinator of government activities in the territories, the prime minister's aide-de-camp, and a whole series of senior IDF officers.

The plan consists of six geographical tiers and provides for the following: roads in an area referred to as the Jerusalem Envelope; roads along the Green Line; strategic axes and sites; Israeli settlement blocs; roads and axes in the Jordan Rift Valley; and what the brochure calls life veins.

The brochure lists and grades the roads in Judaea and Samaria according to their importance; roads that are operationally more important head the list, while the less important ones close it. I will cite several examples. The three road sections that the Central Command deems as vital and recommends building as soon as possible are graded as follows: The foremost is a section of road No. 45 from Giv'at Ze'ev to 'Atarot, which is incidentally one of the two roads Minister Ari'el Sharon has ordered to be built, as reported by Qol Yisra'el three weeks ago — a report that provoked an international uproar. The second, 16-km road is in the Jerusalem Envelope area, and it crosses Mishor Adumim in the direction of Jericho; this road has not received official approval as yet, and the brochure states that it is a part of previous plans. The road graded third in importance is defined as a part of the eastern ring of the Jerusalem Envelope, and it stretches from the Herodion area in the direction of Mishor Adumim, surrounding Bethlehem and Jerusalem from the east. These, plus eight more roads, are detailed in the document under the heading: Operational Axes — namely, roads vital for security.

The chapter dealing with life veins — roads used by civilian vehicles — includes the following details: nine roads already built totaling 64 km; 19 roads under construction throughout Judaea and Samaria, most of which will be inaugurated in the coming weeks, totaling 137 km; and 15 life veins the IDF recommends building at once, including a road bypassing the al-'Arrub refugee camp, a Baytuniya bypass road, a road linking 'Atarot with Jerusalem in the north — also ordered by Sharon, a (Wallajah) bypass, a Bayt Sahur bypass, and even a road linking Efrat with Hatamar Hill. The latter category totals some 52 km of roads awaiting approval.

The brochure details strategic projects — namely, long-range plans, projecting a network of roads along the length and width of Judaea and Samaria. These are referred to as national roads and total 280 km.

The brochure provides a cost estimate for each road: The construction of 1 km costs about $1 million. Since the plan envisages hundreds of kilometers of roads, the implementation of the plan is bound to cost hundreds of millions of dollars. We have learned that Major General 'Uzi Dayan, the Central Command chief, decided to draft this plan shortly after taking over his job last spring. This very thorough brochure was placed on the desks of IDF chiefs and on the defense minister's desk a few weeks ago, and now Central Command is awaiting the comments of the defense establishment leaders.

Israel: Netanyahu Bureau Officials on Levi, Eytan Crises

TA1508093096 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 15 Aug 96

[Report by Yo'el Nir]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Ministry officials said that even during his private U.S. vacation Foreign Minister David Levi has been filled in daily on ministry affairs, received important cables, and so forth. The New York-Jerusalem connection is alive, but so is the outage between the foreign minister and the prime minister. Contrary to various media reports yesterday, no agreements or understandings were achieved between the two men, the prime minister's bureau has announced. Senior prime minister's bureau officials hoped, however, that the crisis with the foreign minister would be resolved within a few days. The key question is a Levi-Netanyahu tete-a-tete, which Levi declined on the eve of his departure for New York, but to which he may consent after several days in the diaspora. In any event, the prime minister plans to inform David Levi that it is inconceivable that a prime minister should not be in charge of the various aspects of the peace process, such as clandestine meetings and the dispatch of envoys on missions, but he will make sure to maintain close coordination with the foreign minister, put his adviser Dore Gold back into the advisory slot, and try to prevent mishaps and misunderstandings of the kind that led to the current crisis.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

As for the crisis with Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan, the latter refuses to give interviews, and his aides say his silence is self-explanatory. According to them, Raful is incensed with the fact that, despite his rich military experience, the prime minister does not consult him and takes him for granted. This was the reason for the renewed cooperation with the NRP [National Religious Party]. Prime minister's bureau sources noted, however, that this drama is contrived and premature, because only today will the defense minister present his plan to Netanyahu, and only then will discussions be launched with the participation of ministers, including those of the NRP [as heard]. Nevertheless, a simple solution was found for Raful's complaint: He was invited to participate in the political team — the so-called kitchen — that will address the issue of Hebron.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordan: Prime Minister Addresses Deputies on Bread, Fodder Issue

JN1408123596 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has said his government had studied the proposals put forward by a Lower House panel on the question of changing forms of subsidies on wheat and fodder.

He told the House this morning that the cabinet had concluded that the only formula acceptable was to provide two types of bread. Mr. al-Kabariti said each kilo of local bread produced from Jordanian wheat will be sold at 0.180 Jordanian dinars while bread produced from a mixture of Jordanian and imported wheat will be sold at 0.220 dinars per kilo.

The prime minister asked citizens to receive subsidies in cash, stressing that if international wheat prices continue to drop that would reflect on the local price of both types of bread. He reiterated that the Ministry of Supply had taken strict measures for tighter control over market prices and prevent monopoly.

Mr. al-Kabariti also pointed out that his cabinet had put an end to corruption related to fodder of which a group of people planned to make huge profits. He emphasized that his government was confronting corruption, noting that the issue of foreign debt could not be handled through slogans or hollow statements.

The prime minister added that his ministerial team was very serious and concerned over the country's economy and its responsibility in that regard.

Later throughout the session, the House of Representatives rejected the proposals of its committee which had been mandated to find an alternative scheme to rechannel the government subsidies on basic commodities.

A total of 29 deputies refused to accept the commission's ideas while only 23 voted in favor.

Jordan: Prime Minister Criticizes IAF-Led Boycott

JN1508102696 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15-16 Aug 96 p 1

[Report by Tariq al-Mumani]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti on Wednesday [14 August] levelled unprecedented criticism at the Islamic Action Front (IAF)-led opposition in the Lower House of Parliament, describing a 23-member group's boycott of Parliament sessions as a form of corruption.

The 23-member group maintained the boycott in protest against the increase in the price of bread and demanded that the government resign.

Addressing the 52 deputies present at the session, Mr. al-Kabariti said: "My government will deal directly and openly with all forms of corruption in deeds rather than words."

"I consider all forms of luxury life as corruption. So are all forms of lavish spending, failure to carry out duty, condoning of smuggling and making illegal gains as well as attempts at political outbidding in matters connected with national interest," he said.

"The government realises that its popularity is achieved by honest people who realise the facts and confront them with honour transcending the petty matters which can solve no problems which our country faces at the moment," said Mr. al-Kabariti.

The government is working hard on addressing all issues related to national economy and is keen to avert any dangers that might result from further procrastination and hesitation," he said. "The government has taken the recent measures to change the method of providing subsidy after being convinced that these measures would achieve the aspired objectives. These measures do not by any way reflect stubbornness on the part of the government, which believes that these measures conform to the requirements of its responsibilities and its leadership role."

Indirectly referring to the opposition group's boycott of Parliament sessions, he said "the government believes in Shura (consultations) in essence rather than in picture."

Other deputies referred to the IAF party members of Parliament as "television action front deputies" in a reference to their demands that their speeches in the House be carried in full on state television.

In reply, the group that boycotted the session described the prime minister's remarks as "irresponsible statements."

On Monday the government announced the new bread prices which took effect on Tuesday.

Parliament supported the government's plan for changing the form of the subsidy for food and voted down recommendations by a special parliamentary committee to draft the deputies' proposals and present an alternative to the government's plan. Only 23 deputies voted in support of the committee's proposal out of 52 members present.

"The House has voted against its own decision because it was the House itself that formed the committee to submit the proposals," said an observer.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The voting was considered as a victory for the government's decision on the subsidy question.

"It was the Islamists who helped the government. If the group had attended the session they would have secured a vote in support of the committee's proposals but their boycott has aborted the committee's endeavour," said one deputy.

The opposition had thought it would deprive the House of quorum but efforts made prior to the session secured quorum.

Deputy and Former Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri demanded that constitutional measures be taken against the government, hinting that the government should face a no-confidence vote.

"Because the government rejected the committee's proposals the House should express dismay and demand that the government rescind its decisions before the end of the current extraordinary session. Otherwise the House should decide on appropriate constitutional measures," said Mr. al-Masri. But his motion was not successful.

Mr. al-Kabariti praised the parliamentary committee for its efforts and said it had acted with "responsibility and determination."

"With its decision the government aims at rectifying imbalances and to put an end to corruption and the smuggling of sheep which are fattened in Jordan" (with subsidised fodder), said Mr. al-Kabariti.

"Jordan's foreign debts cannot be addressed by slogans or wishes without practical steps that would gain us the confidence of the friendly nations that supported us honestly and honourably so that we can stand on our feet and become self-reliant. We are determined to deal with all economic, financial and social imbalances," he said.

Criticising previous governments for ignoring the subsidy question, "which was dropped into my government's lap," Mr. al-Kabariti said the executive authority's decisions "aim at dealing with the inevitable and confronting a challenge that we cannot ignore."

"These measures will be coupled with strict control over prices to prevent monopoly, greed and exploitation to which some merchants resort to make fortunes at the expense of the public," he said.

"I believe in deeds rather than in words," he said, and recalled that Jordan was an importer of flower and apples only a few years ago whereas the Kingdom today exports both items.

The prime minister pledged to expand the social security base, replace non-Jordanian workers with Jordanians, increase the number of beneficiaries of the National Aid Fund, rationalise spending and deal with poverty and unemployment.

Jordan: IAF-Led Boycott Bloc Demands Government's Resignation

JN1508105996 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15-16 Aug 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.) — A bloc of 23 Islamist and other deputies, who on Wednesday [14 August] come under a scathing attack by Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, called on the government to resign over its decision to lift subsidies for bread and fodder.

Mr. al-Kabariti attacked the 23 deputies for boycotting the Lower House sessions and described their action as "corrupt."

Referring to a controversy over Jordan Television's failure to broadcast full speeches the deputies made during the House session last week and their demand that the speeches be broadcast in full as a condition for their return to the House, Mr. al-Kabariti mocked the deputies by saying that "this has turned from real democracy to photo democracy."

The 23, mostly Islamic Action Front (IAF) deputies, retorted: "A government that takes such vital decisions that affect peoples' lives, and a prime minister who behaves in this way ought to resign."

The deputies, in a statement issued after the session, lashed at the prime minister for "using improper language, issuing irresponsible statements and for losing his dignity" in addressing the deputies.

"Is it Shura (consultation) that the prime minister raises the prices (of bread) in defiance of the will of the Parliament's majority and before hearing the conclusions of the parliamentary committee which he himself voted in favour of forming?"

The committee, which was formed last week chaired by Deputy Samir al-Habshinah, met with the prime minister on Saturday but the two sides failed to agree on a compromise.

The committee, which submitted its report to the House yesterday, offered two options for dealing with bread subsidy.

It proposed that bread prices be raised to 130 fils a kilo and that only the poor, who receive aid form the National Aid Fund, be compensated at the rate of JD1.28 [Jordanian dinars] a month.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Both options were turned down by the government, which said both schemes meant additional expenditure over the current subsidy.

The government on Monday announced the prices of bread at between 180 and 220 fils a kilo and decided to subsidise National Aid Fund beneficiaries with JD2.08 a month each and the rest of Jordanians with JD1.280 a month each.

Jordan: Proposal To Renegotiate Bread Price Increase Defeated

JN1508103296 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15-16 Aug 96 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman — The Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday [14 August] failed to pass a motion undercutting the government's decision to almost double the prices of bread and remove subsidies as part of an economic restructuring programme.

Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti defended the new moves, which have been opposed by many members of Parliament and political parties, and promised to widen social security and health coverage and fight poverty and unemployment despite an austerity programme.

The increases in the prices of bread took effect on Tuesday after the government decided to compensate every Jordanian through cash reimbursements under a scheme approved last week.

Deputies in the 80-seat Lower House defeated proposals by a committee they formed last week to negotiate with the government prices of bread.

Twenty-three of 52 deputies present voted for the committee's recommendation of lower price rises. The resolution would not have been binding on the government even if passed since the decision to increase the prices of bread and modify the form of subsidy was taken as an administrative move which falls within the prerogatives of the executive authority.

Five deputies did not attend and 23, mainly the Islamic Action Front (IAF)-led opposition, boycotted the session but failed to muster enough support to deny the meeting a quorum.

The new bread prices — 180 fils and 220 fils per kilo, up from 85 fils and 120 fils — took effect on Tuesday after the government announced the increases on Monday.

The announcement came two days after the parliamentary committee and the prime minister failed to find common ground over the issue.

Mr. al-Kabariti told Parliament on Wednesday that the government "found that the only available formula that can be applied...on a subject that has to be confronted sooner or later without dancing around it."

Deputy Tahir al-Masri, a former prime minister, attacked the government for pre-empting the committee's suggestions and urged it to reverse its decision.

"...Or else, it (the House) should decide on constitutional measures against the government," he said before walking out.

Several deputies said such measures included a vote of confidence in the government when the regular session convenes in November.

Higher world commodity prices — primarily for wheat — have so far helped create a JD150 million [Jordanian dinars] deficit in the JD1.8 billion 1996 budget, threatening to sabotage a three-year reform programme begun this year under the supervision of the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

In principle, the removal of subsidies is part of the reform programme. As such, the government has explained that the move could not be averted or postponed but that its cash compensation for every Jordanian should make up for the direct impact of the increase in prices on the poor.

Essentially, every Jordanian is entitled to receive the compensation. Excluded from the cash reimbursement are the nearly 400,000 foreign workers in the country and tourists. More than one million tourists came to Jordan in 1995, with an increased number expected this year.

In Wednesday's session, the House discussed several options to counter the total removal of subsidies.

The compromise motion, drawn up by the five-member parliamentary committee but rejected by the government on Saturday, provided for increasing the price of bread from 85 fils to 180 fils per kilogramme while compensating each Jordanian by JD1.28 a month.

But the government argued that this proposal would have cost the treasury JD 114 million, which would actually exceed the current subsidies of JD 95 million.

Officials say curbing food subsidies is necessary before broader free market reforms, put off by governments since Jordan began IMF-directed stabilisation reforms after an economic crisis in 1989.

Since the price hike went into effect on Tuesday, no unusual incidents have been reported in Jordan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Jordan: Officials View Jordanian-Saudi Relations After Summit

JN1408193396 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Aug 96 pp 1, 19

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman (AL-RA'Y/PETRA)—Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti said Jordanian-Saudi relations are better than before, both in terms of bilateral relations and regional cooperation.

In a statement to the BBC, al-Kabariti added that it can be said that Jordan and Saudi Arabia hold identical views on overall regional issues of mutual interest. He said the Jordanian-Saudi talks focused on enhancing bilateral cooperation and consolidating coordination and cooperation on regional issues, including the peace process and the efforts to fight terrorism in the region.

On his part, Industry and Trade Minister Engineer 'Ali Abu-al-Raghib, replying to AL-RA'Y questions yesterday, said Jordanian-Saudi talks focused on three economic axes: Jordanian workers, the entry of the Jordanian agricultural produce into the Saudi markets, and facilitating transportation between and across both countries. He added that the Jeddah summit announced that both fraternal countries have entered a new era of political, economic, and security coordination and cooperation.

Abu-al-Raghib asserted that economic signs are showing great improvement in trade relations and that Jordanian exports to the Saudi market during the first half of this year grew 107.7 percent. Exports this year total 54 million dinars, versus 26 million for the same period last year.

Abu-al-Raghib added that the agricultural exports issue received profound interest after Jordan submitted a technical report prepared by U.S. experts confirming the safety of the Jordanian agricultural produce. He pointed out that the Jordanian and Saudi sides agreed to form a Saudi technical committee that will visit Jordan to acquaint itself with the methods and technologies used in agriculture. He said that a great detente is expected regarding Jordanian agricultural exports to Saudi markets.

Regarding transportation cooperation, Abu-al-Raghib said the Jeddah meetings followed up on what was agreed to in principle in June during the meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Saudi Ministerial Committee. It was agreed to facilitate the passage of Jordanian trucks to and across Saudi territory, remove all administrative and bureaucratic obstacles, and extend mutual exemptions and facilities.

He added: Finding jobs for Jordanian workers in Saudi Arabia was also discussed. Important contracts were signed recently to find jobs for approximately 2,500 employees, mostly in the educational sector. He said he expected more contracts to be signed.

Abu-al-Raghib noted that the Saudi private sector was given bigger opportunities to rely on Jordanian experience in various sectors. He also pointed to the removal of the administrative obstacles that obstructed the Saudi private sector's broad procurement of Jordanian workers, similar to other Arab nationals. [passage omitted]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lebanon: Foreign Minister Speaks to Press Upon Arrival, Meets al-Hirawi

JN1408124896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi received [Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at B'abdah Palace at noon today. Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz attended. Al-Shar' arrived in Beirut this morning. He was received at the Syrian-Lebanese border checkpoint by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and senior Lebanese Foreign Ministry officials.

On arrival at the border checkpoint, al-Shar' responded to journalists' questions. Asked about the Israelis' Lebanon First proposal, he said: You heard what President Hafiz al-Asad said in Cairo. He said: Lebanon and Syria first. Al-Shar' added: Outside this framework, Israel will not be serious about achieving a just and comprehensive peace. Instead, it will be maneuvering to deceive some people and mislead others, avoiding the requirements of the peace process, and aborting current efforts.

On the results of his tour of Morocco and Algeria, Foreign Minister al-Shar' said: The two countries' officials showed a clear understanding of the situation. They share our viewpoint, view the Lebanon First proposal with suspicion, and believe that Israel is maneuvering and trying to explode the situation in the region and not only in Lebanon.

Regarding Netanyahu's proposals on the Golan, al-Shar' said they are unacceptable unless Netanyahu clearly stresses total withdrawal from the occupied Golan.

Lebanon: Buwayz, Syria's al-Shar' Comment on Peace

NC1408142096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1035 GMT 14 Aug 96

[News conference by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' with unidentified correspondents at B'abda Palace in Beirut on 14 August—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Buwayz] His Excellency Minister al-Shar', acting as His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's envoy, has briefed us on the trips he has carried out and the general conditions in the region. He also conveyed a message dealing with these issues to his excellency the president of the Republic from His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. I believe that during his visit his excellency the Syrian foreign minister has sensed that there is general backing for the Lebanese-Syrian stand vis-a-vis the current proposals in the Middle East. This means that the firm and cohesive Lebanese-Syrian stand enjoys the respect and appreciation of the Arab brothers and has mobilized Arab solidarity behind it. The Arab brothers realize that Netanyahu's coming to power and the negative positions he expressed after his election—illustrated by his abandonment of the principles of the peace process agreed upon at the Madrid conference—are proposals made publicly through the media in an attempt to divide the Arab ranks. I now leave the podium to his excellency the minister.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Minister, has Syria received any formal, serious communication regarding the Lebanon first proposal? What dangers are inherent in this proposal to Lebanon and Syria?

[Al-Shar'] One of the objectives of the Lebanon first proposal is to exploit this subject to preoccupy the Lebanese of all communities, the Syrians, the Arabs, the region, and the peace process with this bogus proposal. It is designed to act as a shock absorber for the Arab pressure that was exerted by the Arab summit, the European pressure exerted by the Florence summit, and the pressure resulting from the positions adopted by the seven major industrial countries at the Lyons summit and to divert all these pressures away from the Israeli Government. It is intended as a way to escape from the peace process, the principles on which it was founded, and the sound path that leads to a real resumption of the peace negotiations by all the concerned parties. That is why I reiterate that putting the phrase Lebanon First on the agenda of any negotiations or in statements made to journalists is designed to divert the peace process as much as possible from the course it should take.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, Netanyahu says that if the Lebanon First proposal is implemented, it will constitute a step forward in the peace settlement with Syria. Hence, he urges Syria to limit, or rather stop, Hizballah's activities in Lebanon. What do you think?

[Al-Shar'] We have repeatedly asked the following: If Israel is earnest about making peace, why does it not resume negotiations on both the Syrian and Lebanese tracks? If the Israeli prime minister wants to withdraw unconditionally from Lebanon, I am sure he will need permission from no one. No one will prevent him from doing so. What he really wants is to dictate conditions to Lebanon similar to the conditions of the [abrogated 1983] 17 May accord, including security conditions and other demands. He has so far demanded that the resistance be disarmed and that the South Lebanese Army be merged with the Lebanese national army. He has also asked for

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

guarantees from Syria. All these are preconditions that radically contradict UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon. Therefore, when Israel makes a proposal in this fashion it does not serve the peace process, but rather seeks to derail it.

[Correspondent] Your excellency, as Israel continues to escalate the tone of its threats, what practical measures can be taken to confront this Israeli escalation?

[Al-Shar'] I do not reveal a secret when I say this: Through our Arab and international contacts, we clearly sensed that Israel is the party that is now being blamed for the faltering of the peace process. The world unanimously, or almost unanimously, realizes that the Arabs are willing for peace and that the new Israeli Government is placing every possible obstacle in the way of peace by its failure to resume the peace negotiations on the bases of the Madrid conference. This in itself constitutes a strong deterrent against any Israeli escalation.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] of the Arab position after the recent Arab summit [words indistinct].

[Al-Shar'] The objective of the tour, which I made at the instructions of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, was to activate the Cairo Arab summit resolutions and translate the agreements into tangible and definite stands, especially in light of Israel's continuing extremism and rejection of the bases of the peace process, the Madrid terms of reference, and the principle of a land-for-peace exchange. I sensed strong astonishment and denunciation: How could an Israeli Government continue for four years — and this is [words indistinct] — to show such intransigence, extremism, and rejection of the land-for-peace principle? Neither the Arabs nor the entire world will accept this. There are international resolutions and terms of reference for the Madrid conference and there were efforts made before and during the Madrid conference and there were negotiations and commitments. The Israeli Government must take all this seriously; otherwise, all parties will hold this government fully responsible.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon?

[Buwayz] I want to go back to the issue of the Lebanon First proposal. Up to this moment, this subject has been a media headline, without any known political address. If we look back, we will find that during the 13 round of talks in Washington, Israel never mentioned the word withdrawal, nor the term implementation of Resolution 425. On the contrary, Israel always tried to replace these phrases by the phrase redeployment or re-stationing. Hence, this is more of a maneuver than a practical and serious proposal. At any rate, and up to this moment, I believe I can emphasize that no one received a clear plan on this matter. If, by Lebanon First, Israel means it is ready to implement Resolution 425 unconditionally and without demanding conditions of Lebanon in the peace process, then we welcome the implementation of this. But if the aim is to drag Lebanon into negotiations similar to those of 17 May — under which Israeli forces, station posts, or early warning posts remain on Lebanese territory — or if there is talk about joint patrols or about integrating the Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army] into the Lebanese Army, and so on, then we say that the 17 May agreement failed. And such will be the fate of any similar agreements.

But if the issue means the resumption of the peace process, then there are rules for the resumption that were decided on in Madrid. Netanyahu was then a member of the Israeli delegation and is fully aware of them. He was also the Israeli delegation's spokesman and knows what these rules are and that the proposals he made following his election are inconsistent with these rules. Briefly, if such talk means implementation of Resolution 425, then we welcome it. But if it means something else, then this is rejected beforehand.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]?

[Buwayz] I believe that Netanyahu is confused by his proposals, which have stopped the peace process and politically isolated the Israeli stand. This has caused reactions inside Israel in several directions. I believe that he is feeling some confusion and is therefore undertaking these media maneuvers.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] from the United States?

[Al-Shar'] We were not informed.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]?

[Al-Shar'] If the Netanyahu government persists with these proposals, then the peace process will remain [word indistinct]. It is clear to everyone, not only to the Lebanese, Syrian, and the Arab parties but also to the U.S. party and to all those concerned with the peace process that this new Israeli policy is bound to invalidate the peace process. It must review its policy and return to the bases, principles, terms or reference, and obligations that all the parties committed themselves to during the past years. Hence, the peace process is in a real deadlock.

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct]

[Buwayz] [Words indistinct]

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Lebanon: Monitoring Group Convenes in al-Naqurah on Israel's Request

NC1508111496 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1140 GMT 15 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israel-Lebanon Monitoring Group [ILMG] met in al-Naqurah at 1045 today. The members—Syria, Lebanon, Israel, France, and the United States—attended. The Lebanese and Syrian delegations arrived in al-Naqurah from al-Hinniyah aboard a helicopter belonging to the UN Interim Force in Lebanon. The U.S. team arrived in al-Naqurah aboard an Israeli helicopter. Also, the French and Israeli teams arrived in the town from occupied Palestine.

The meeting was held at the request of Israel following the killing of a Lebanese during a Hizballah attack on the area occupied by Israel. The al-Naqurah's meeting today is the first held by the ILMG since its formation and assumption of its duties on 8 August.

Lebanon: Israelis Shell Villages; Amal Group Attacks Patrol in South

NC1408164096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Artillery of the Israeli occupation forces deployed in Qal'at al-Shaqif, 'Alman, and al-Qusayr opened fire in an abrupt manner this afternoon against the al-Litani river basin, Wadi al-Hujayr, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Frun, and al-Ghanduriyah. The Israelis used 120-mm and 15-mm shells in the bombardment.

The occupation forces also conducted a broad-front raking operation of these areas with heavy machine guns.

Earlier today enemy artillery in Balat bombarded Haris and the al-Birkah neighborhood in Haddathah, causing several fires in the outskirts of the two townships.

The occupation forces also shelled from their positions in al-Tayyibah the old quarter of al-Qantarah with several tank shells.

An enemy patrol consisting of six vehicles conducted a raking operation of the al-Tayyibah Triangle and Wadi al-Hujayr areas with various types of machine guns and artillery.

Enemy warplanes, meanwhile, were not absent from the south, concentrating their low-altitude flights over the western sector of the south and Iqlim al-Tuffah.

The Amal Movement's operations room announced that one of its groups, belonging to the Martyr Hashim Hamad Unit, attacked a joint patrol of the Israeli forces and Lahd forces [South Lebanese Army] on the Dayr Siryan-al-Qusayr road with rockets and machine-gun fire at 1315 today. There were numerous casualties among the patrol's members.

In another development, the occupation forces reopened the Bayt Yahun crossing to vehicles entering and leaving the occupied border strip. The crossing was closed yesterday.

We received a report a short time ago that the outskirts of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, al-Ghanduriyah, Frun, and Wadi al-Hujayr are currently coming under bombardment with 120-mm and 155-mm artillery shells. The sources of the fire are in Tallat al-'Abbad and al-Qantarah. There has also been automatic gunfire with 12.7-mm machine guns against the wadis surrounding the villages that are being shelled.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Syria: Netanyahu Criticized for Practicing 'Policy of Deception'

JN1408155696 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Aug 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' visited Algeria and Morocco, carrying messages from President Hafiz al-Asad to Algerian President Liamine Zeroual and Moroccan King Hassan II. The tour reaffirmed the unified Arab stand, as well as the need to adhere to the bases of the peace process in accordance with the Madrid conference, in order to confront Israel's plans to undermine this process and continue its occupation and the settlement process in the occupied Arab territories.

The Algerian and Moroccan views were totally in line with the Syrian position in terms of the need to adhere to the bases of the peace process, the land-for-peace formula, and the Madrid conference as a term of reference. The Syrian-Egyptian summit in Alexandria and the Syrian-Lebanese summit in Latakia proved that Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon hold similar positions. The Arabian Gulf states, led by Saudi Arabia, also voiced a similar position through King Fahd.

It is obvious that the Cairo summit laid a strong groundwork for true Arab solidarity based on adherence to the principles of the peace process, the foremost of which are the Security Council's resolutions; the land-for-peace formula; a determination to regain all the occupied Arab territories; total solidarity with Syria, Lebanon, and the Palestinians; and aborting every Israeli attempt to penetrate Arab unity and deal with each Arab country individually.

Although the Israeli prime minister recently made many statements about his desire for peace, they did not contain anything new or any sign that he will renege on his electoral program and the positions he declared in Washington. Netanyahu is still repeating his booby-trapped call for talks with Syria without preconditions — that is, without committing himself to any of the Security Council's resolutions and the land-for-peace principle.

Netanyahu has not abandoned his suspect plan to single out Lebanon through the so-called Lebanon First proposal, even though all the Lebanese have rejected it and even though it exposed Israel's goals, particularly the goal of isolating fraternal Lebanon from Syria and the other Arab countries and drawing it into unilateral reconciliation that will not be based on Security Council Resolution No. 425 and will harm Lebanon's sovereignty and independence.

The best proof of Netanyahu's policy of deception is his decision to give a free hand to the settlement process on the occupied Arab territories and allocate money to build new settlements. Anyone who wants peace will not do anything to contradict peace. Peace and settlements are at odds, and anyone who wants peace will not declare his decision to retain the Golan, the West Bank, and Jerusalem and will not refuse to discuss the holy city, the qiblah of all Arabs and Muslims.

From the start, the world community has tried to expose Israel's plans to undermine the peace process and place the region on the brink of explosion. It is no coincidence that the European summit in Florence and the summit of G-7 countries and Russia in Lyon urged Israel to commit itself to the peace process. It is also no coincidence that the United States has repeatedly reaffirmed that the exchange of land for peace is the essence of any serious peace move.

Netanyahu has been exposed on the Arab and international levels. His government includes the most extremist, racist, and arrogant figures in Israel. Many Israeli politicians who held major responsibilities in previous governments clearly announced that Netanyahu does not want peace and wants to undermine the peace process and that his settlement plans are clear proof.

Pending the results of the U.S. presidential elections, the Arabs should work hard to strengthen their position and their solidarity and to review their steps toward Israel. The unity of the Arab position is essential, and the world's solidarity with any correct Arab position will depend primarily on the Arabs' solidarity with their own cause and on their determination to close ranks. This is what Syria is seeking, and this is the aim of the Syrian political move, which is based on Arab interests and the need for every party to regain its full rights, whether in Palestine, Lebanon, or Syria.

Syria: Netanyahu Seen as 'Hostile to Genuine Peace'

JN1508092796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Aug 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH speaks about the policy pursued by Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu toward the peace process. AL-BA'TH recalls Israel's positions regarding the peace process and how it bogs down this process through deception and by thwarting the attainment of the goal of a just and comprehensive peace. It notes that the current policy of Binyamin Netanyahu and his game of verbal compromise will not deceive anybody, because it failed immediately.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The paper adds: By playing this game, Netanyahu sought to ease the international isolation of his policy and absorb the severe rejection of his violation of the foundations of the peace process. However, he failed to achieve this because his talk about a desire to hold talks on the Syrian track and about his wish to have talks on the Golan and in the Golan — while he undermines the bases of the peace process, rejects the land-for-peace principle, and unleashes the settlement activity on the highest extent — leaves no doubt that he is hostile to genuine peace and is a replica of Yitzhaq Shamir.

AL-BA'TH maintains: If Netanyahu really wants to attain peace, then the approach is well-known and needs no misleading interpretations. This approach is incongruent with the ambitions of annexing the lands of others, violating the resolutions of international legitimacy, and unleashing the process of regional expansion under the slogan of expanding and building settlements. It also contradicts the abrogation of all that has happened in five years of peace talks.

AL-BA'TH continues: It is impossible to reconcile expansion into the lands of others with a just and comprehensive peace. Netanyahu's imposition of unacceptable conditions by making threats — after the game of deception and falsification, represented by the fake Lebanon-First slogan, was exposed — will not intimidate anyone.

AL-BA'TH concludes: Netanyahu's policy will remain unacceptable, impossible, and close to squaring the circle. This policy will deadlock the peace process unless his government openly announces its full commitment to the foundations of the peace process and the resolutions of international legitimacy.

Syria: 'Extensive' Moves on United Arab Peace Position Hailed

JN1508075796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Aug 96

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The Active Endeavor," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the extensive political moves being carried out by Syria on the Arab level to reaffirm the Arab commitment to a united position and objective. AL-THAWRAH asserts that these moves send a very significant message about the Arab's principled and unwavering approach, which holds fast to rights, does not cede land or bargain on sovereignty, and accepts only a just and comprehensive peace that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the land-for-peace principle.

AL-THAWRAH adds: This consistent pan-Arab position, which was spelled out at the expanded Cairo summit and was asserted at all the bilateral Arab meetings that followed this summit, is clear and forthright. It is identical with the stand of the international community, particularly that of the European summit in Florence and the G-7 summit in Lyon, as well as the positions of Russia, Japan, and the Non-Aligned Movement. It notes that all these parties stressed the importance of a commitment to Madrid formula and the land-for-peace principle. They frankly announced that peace can be established only on the basis of implementing the UN resolutions and returning the occupied Arab lands to their legitimate owners.

AL-THAWRAH continues: The international community showed a great deal of understanding of the Arab position and a remarkable degree of sympathy with the just and legitimate demands of Arabs to restore their rights, as stipulated in the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: The problem continued to lie in Israel's position, which defies the international community and in its provocative proposals through which it seeks to deal with Arab countries individually and force them to accept its own peace — that is, a partial peace that allows it to obtain everything and gives the Arabs only a meager share of their land and rights.

Syria: Damascus Reluctant To Extradite 'Arab Afghans' to Egypt

MM1408151596 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 14 Aug 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Muhammad Salah in Cairo: "Damascus Prefers Not To Extradite 'Arab Afghans' to Cairo, Favors Trying Them in Syria"]

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-HAYAH has learned that the talks held by an Egyptian security delegation on a recent visit to Syria did not produce an agreement to extradite to Cairo a number of Egyptian "Arab Afghans" arrested during last month's campaign, which involved other nationalities, such as the Algerians, Palestinians, and Syrians. Informed Egyptian sources said that the Egyptian security delegation was informed of the outcome of the Syrian security organs' investigations with these people. It seems that most of them entered Syria legally and that they have links with elements of other Arab religious groups which were established when those groups' leaders were in Afghanistan. The sources said that the Syrian side stressed the need to continue the investigation with the detained Egyptians and the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

other nationalities, in view of the fact that the investigations center around the same issue and the fact that there are common links between all the detainees.

The sources said that the Egyptian delegation showed the Syrian officials a file containing the charges against the detained Egyptian "Arab Afghans" over incidents committed in Egypt over the past years. The sources revealed that the Syrian side wants those who are proved to have contravened Syrian laws to be tried in Syria in view of Syria's delicate position with regard to other dissidents of various nationalities who are living in the country, and pointed out that the extradition of any wanted persons to their own countries would set a precedent which would give excuses to other states such as Turkey which is demanding the extradition of Turkish dissidents living in Syria.

Observers believe that the Syrian position on the "Arab Afghans" issue reflects Damascus' keenness not to tamper with the balances governing Syria's relations with several states and groups. These observers expect Syrian officials to put Syria's interests first when dealing with the "Arab Afghans," and stressed that Syria will not allow its territory to be used for planning acts of violence to be carried out in other states.

Informed Egyptian sources have denied that the "Afghan file" was raised during Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's talks with his Egyptian counterpart Husni Mubarak last week. They said that the two presidents agreed to let security channels handle the issue. The sources pointed out that Interior Minister Major General Hasan al-Alfi was not among the members of the Egyptian delegation at the Alexandria talks, and that this means that security issues were not discussed.

In a related development, AL-HAYAH has learned that another Arab state has handed two Islamic Group leaders who had spent years in that state, over to Egypt. Informed Egyptian sources said that the security organs are questioning the two leaders, Bayyumi Isma'il and Jamal Muhammad Ibrahim, about their activities outside Egypt and their part in supporting and financing acts of violence carried out by the organization's members in Egypt over the past years. They said that the two had previously been accused in the [Islamic] Jihad case in 1981 but were acquitted, and later left Egypt with members of the Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Group in the mid-eighties and helped reactivate both organizations following the late President Anwar al-Sadat's assassination.

Sources in the team defending the suspects in the religious violence cases stressed that the two did not undertake any illegal activity, and said that they were handed over as part of the Egyptian government policy of tracking down Islamists abroad. The sources explained that the investigations in all the religious violence cases over the past years have not proved that either suspect was involved in illegal activities.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India

India: Sharma's Independence Address Honors 50 Years of Freedom

BK1408153796 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1445 GMT 14 Aug 96

[Address to the nation by Indian President Shankar Dayal Sharma on 14 August; place not given — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Fellow citizens, sisters, brothers, and dear children of India: On the eve of our Independence Day, I have great pleasure in extending to you my warmest greetings and felicitations. This year, Independence Day marks the commencement of the 50th year of our regaining freedom. In the history of a nation as ancient as India, a span of this duration may not seem appreciable, but it is special, to us who lived through it, as a period of freedom, independence, and national self-respect. Every moment of it is to be cherished and devoted to the task of realizing the goals of freedom. My comrades in this struggle would recall the intense yearning at that time for India's liberation from bondage. Innumerable sons and daughters of India gave up their lives bravely and selflessly fighting for the freedom and dignity of our nation. Sacrificing themselves in this great cause, they joined the glorious ranks of the immortals in our history. The struggle was long, arduous, challenging, and heroic. At times, massive punitive action was inflicted on us with such ferocity and ruthlessness that to many the vision of freedom seemed a distant and unattainable dream.

India was, after all, regarded as the brightest and most valuable jewel in the crown of the mightiest empire ever on earth. The rulers of that time scoffed at us and asked us whether we really believed India would ever be free — and yet freedom was secured. This was a historic triumph of the human spirit. Steady, dedicated effort by millions, inspired and guided by leaders of high moral and ethical stature, brought India out of the darkness of humiliation and servitude. Two generations have grown since then. And today, freedom and independence are taken for granted, as if these blessings have always existed and as if these are the ordinary attributes of nationhood.

It is important that all of us realize that neither freedom nor independence, leave alone equality or justice between nation and nation, are bestowed by nature. These can be secured and can be safeguarded only by intense, vigilant, constant, and unflinching effort empowered by vision, unity, and national commitment.

Today, as we enter the 50th year of freedom, we must be mindful of the modern imperatives of national freedom and independence. Let us be aware that bondage comes in many forms. The subjugation and enslavement of nations and peoples for sustained exploitation of their assets — human and physical — no longer requires force of arms, physical occupation of territory, draconian laws, presence across seas, or shackles of iron. Indeed, these instruments and techniques are long discarded as being outmoded, inefficient, and counterproductive. Therefore, apart from the usual and obvious methods such as stilted terms of trade and undermining self-reliance in economic growth, the focus now is on the mind of a nation and its people.

The key and more sensitive elements determining national destiny are the values and ideals of a nation. Our foremost concerns as people are first needs and priorities, our aspirations, the national atmosphere, the policies developed, and the way in which the mechanisms and institutions of our national life function. We must be determined and ensure that we move in the direction of national interest and that we are not propelled by the agenda of others. It is in these respects that we have fully to be cognizant, vigilant, and purposeful. It is in these respects that we can generate a tremendous vitalizing force for advancement, growth, friendship, peace, and the good of all. It is in these very respects that we must resolutely withstand and neutralize the formidable pressures maneuvered against us. It is a matter of great good fortune that we are uniquely endowed to do so. Our spiritual, intellectual, and cultural heritage is universalism. The core values and the ideals of the great religions and philosophies that have flourished in India are of oneness, harmony, equality, justice, compassion, service, truth, and nonviolence. Concern for the well-being of all, mutual respect for each other's view points, the spirit of cooperation and friendship and sharing, the yearning to relieve the suffering of all living things, the aspiration to bring peace — true peace, not just absence of war — all these positive aspects go into the making of India's national identity, national psyche, and the personal identity of all of us as citizens of this great country. These virtues sustain India; account for the continuity of our ancient civilization, as well as our receptivity to all things wholesome and beneficial.

Our national characteristic of assimilation, diversity, synthesis, pluralism, and harmony — these virtues of universalism — gave our struggle for freedom its unique and classic quality. The struggle was waged and the suffering undergone not for the freedom of India alone but as a global movement for the emancipation of the subjugated, the oppressed, the downtrodden all over the world. This spirit of universalism was expressed in the very first moments of our independence, when we declared that peace is indivisible — so also is freedom, so

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

also is prosperity — thus announcing to the world India's cognition that these great boons are not truly realized so long as any part of humanity continues to suffer. Every member of the constituent assembly of India had pledged to work for the well-being of all humankind. It is such a perspective which energized India's policy of nonalignment and India's quest for peace, development, and disarmament. It is precisely this approach, in tune with core national values and ideals, that vitalizes our system of democracy and accounts for its inner strength, growth, and effectiveness.

Friends, the recently concluded general elections afforded further proof as to the efficacy, maturity, and resilience of our democracy. With faith in democracy, the electorate in Jam Mu and Kashmir boldly withstood the machinations of sinister forces of violence. The smooth transition of power from one government to another and the working of the parliamentary form of governance has been a matter of admiration. Although no party had the majority in the Lok Sabha, a coalition was soon formed and tested on the floor of the house. Despite a wide range of parties in the Lok Sabha, the election of the speaker was unanimous, and respecting a convention, the deputy speaker was also elected unanimously. With the elections for and the constitution of the 11th Lok Sabha and the formation of the council of ministers, India has again demonstrated her expertise and mastery of the processes of the parliamentary form of democratic governance. The immense scale of general elections in the world's largest democracy, peaceful and fair polling, and measured progress of constitutional processes for change and installation of governments redounds to the credit of our country.

A new chapter has opened in the history of federal governance. There are governments now with different political parties in various states and at the center. The federal apparatus has smoothly adjusted to these developments. It would be heartening to see, in interstate matters, an approach of constructive consultation for mutual resolution of many problems, including particularly sensitive issues of sharing and utilizing scarce resources such as water and power. Many a problem that may appear intractable and daunting can be resolved by the democratic approach of discussion and mutual accommodation. Such instances enrich our democratic experience and set examples for emulation in other spheres.

It is essential now, at this juncture of our political development, to devote ourselves also to concerted action vis-a-vis social inequities, unjust structures, ideas and practices that beset and weaken our nation. We have an exalted humanitarian heritage of thought reflected in our constitution and in many laws. What is required urgently is the building of a nationwide social awareness and consensus, a powerful movement for social reform which can give real and practical effect to the rights and safeguards enshrined in the Constitution and the laws. There has to be wider perception that justice is not done merely by the application of laws but by social change and transformation. What matters is the way the community responds against injustice, violence, and depravation. Community sensitivity to social reality has to be heightened. This is a task of profound importance. The role of the judiciary, social activists, the press, and the media will be crucial.

Parliamentarians, legislators, and the representatives of the people must, of course, be in the forefront in this task, but there is scope and a crying need for contributions by all citizens in such a movement for social change and reform. I would appeal to all patriotic citizens, particularly the youth who have always been in the vanguard of progressive action, to take up this challenge. I should add that without social reform and transformation, no tangible and meaningful progress can be made. We have to do away with the distortions, the disparities, and inequities in our social structure that block the path to future growth in all spheres. The great prospects and challenges ahead call for resolute effort by all — the kisan [farmer], the jawan [soldier], and mazdoor [worker], and by every member of our polity. All must participate with a new sense of mission. The women of India, particularly, must attain their due position as equal partners in every sector of nation-building activity. The greatest democracy in the world must prove itself as a powerful, social, economic, and political partnership striving for the universal values and ideals that our nation has always upheld before the world.

Friends, as we endeavor to build the future of our nation, we also reiterate to our neighborhood and to the rest of the world our message of peace, friendship, and cooperation. We believe that concerted efforts to promote mutually beneficial regional cooperation — as between nations of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]; as also in the Indian Ocean region, and with nations of the ASEAN — would open the path to higher levels of development, prosperity, and happiness for all. We shall continue to play a vigilant and creative role in world affairs. Tomorrow, on our Independence Day when we unfurl the national tricolor, let us salute our flag of freedom, reiterate our national resolve, and re-dedicate ourselves to the glory of our nation and our people and to the good of all humankind.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India: Gowda's Address on Women's Rights, Poverty, Foreign Policy

BK1508104196 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network In Hindi 0202 GMT 15 Aug 96

[Address to the nation by Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda from the Red Fort in New Delhi on the occasion of Independence Day — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brothers, sisters, and dear countrymen! My hearty greetings to you all on Independence Day. I will try to speak in Hindi. I recall that day when, as a school boy, I was inspired by Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru's speech from this historic Red Fort. He referred to himself as the first servant of the Indian masses. Today, I stand before you as a humble servant. I come from to a small farmer's family. I never imagined that I would be addressing you from the Red Fort as the prime minister of this country. Granting this opportunity to a farmer's son like me is the blessing of our constitution and democracy.

Heeding Mahatma Gandhi's call, people belonging to every region, creed, and thought engaged themselves in the war of independence. They gained independence for us. Today, we honor all those leaders and commanders of the freedom movement. We should also remember the sacrifices made by the father of our nation. The path of the freedom movement adopted by Mahatma Gandhi kindled the spirit of unity. Characteristic of this unity is that it is not only connected with borders or history, but is based on an unshakable faith that this country belongs to all people and its form is of a composite and secular nature. For centuries, the word India has awakened the feeling of unity in our citizens, speaking different languages, of this country and has also created an identity of Indianism. I recall a saying in Sanskrit. For centuries, the people living in this great country — whatever their creed, language, or complexion, or religion — all of them are the citizens of this country and are Indians. It is our heritage, history and civilization. Whenever we deviated from unity and secularism and adopted the path of extremism, our country witnessed a downfall. Today, the most important need is to further strengthen goodwill and tolerance in all our countrymen.

To run our government, we have prepared a common minimum program. In this program, we are determined to take significant steps to bring prosperity to the country and improve the standard of living. I come from a village where most of our brothers and sisters live. I have seen poverty and deprivation at very close quarters. I know the common man and his difficulties. I deem it as my duty and privilege to launch this new program. Our government has resolved to make special efforts to raise the standard of living of villagers. In fact, our government in real terms conforms to this great tradition and heritage and is capable of providing a stable and strong government in accordance with our democracy, (?unitary status) and system of administration.

Our government is based on federalism, decentralization, and social justice and we will uphold the dignity and honor of our nation and individual citizens. The duty of every Indian citizen is to maintain the solidarity and integrity of our country. The responsibility of all of us is to keep alive the composite tradition. This government will take every possible step to maintain cordial relations between all sections of society.

We pledge to protect the life and property of all citizens — especially the weaker sections and minorities.

I visited Punjab a few days ago. I was greatly impressed by the fortitude of the Punjab people with which they fought against terrorism and continued their progress. I congratulated them for their bravery and wisdom. I have been deeply pained by certain unnecessary incidents of violence and strife, in which some of our brothers, sisters and innocent children have lost their lives. I fully sympathize with the affected families. We will extend every kind help to them. Secessionism, terrorism, criminal and unsocial activities, and violence have no place in our society. My government will sternly deal with all such activities.

Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and will continue to remain so. The people there are part of us. They have been the people of India for centuries. You know that all the problems of Kashmir have been generated by some foreign powers. There should be no doubt in any mind that we will maintain the integrity of this country at any cost. I have visited Jammu and Kashmir twice and have met with the people to learn their wishes. The conditions there are changing. The conduct of parliamentary elections in Jammu and Kashmir was a victory for our democracy. By rejecting the terrorism being exported from outside, the people of Jammu and Kashmir have shown their wisdom. Therefore, in keeping with the aspirations of the people and the changed conditions there, we have decided that state assembly elections will be held in Jammu and Kashmir next month. We will complete the task of normalizing the situation in Kashmir and of restoring a popular government there.

In the northeast region of our country, there is a need for special attention and support to stop violence, ethnic violence, and terrorism. Steps will be taken for the welfare of the people of this region. We will take effective measures to address their complaints. Together with providing an effective administration, strict steps

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

will be taken to stop foreign infiltration and arms smuggling.

In our view, an efficient and clean administration is the necessity of the day. For this, we should work with complete dedication. Honesty and accountability should be the main pillars of the administration. First of all, the tendency to take arbitrary decisions should be curbed. Our work ethics should be simple and more transparent. We have taken steps to fulfill our promise to prove that we are a clean and corruption-free administration. There is a need to strengthen our investigation agencies and make them more effective to eliminate corruption. There is great public concern over corruption, especially at high levels. There is a need to set up and strengthen institutions which work to stop corruption and create public confidence in our democratic system. The proposal to appoint an ombudsman has been raised for many years. We will introduce legislation in parliament with the view of realizing this institution.

We want to bring about extensive reforms in our electoral system. We will study all proposals in connection with electoral reforms which aim to stop the use of money and muscle power in elections, ban inappropriate means, and ensure the accountability of political parties. For a start, we have amended the electoral law to provide for strict punishment for crimes such as the seizure of polling booths. Along with this, provisions have also been made to discourage amateur candidates and reduce election campaigning time.

The demand of the Uttarakhand people for a separate state has been there for a long time. Our government has made a significant decision to fulfill this demand. We will soon introduce a bill for the formation of Uttarakhand state. We have decided that in accordance with the provisions of the constitution, this bill will be tabled at the Uttar Pradesh assembly to elicit its views after the upcoming assembly elections there. Thereafter, this bill will be tabled in parliament for the creation of the Uttarakhand state soon. We are confident that this government's decision will fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people of Uttarakhand.

In today's world, there is no alternative to speedy economic progress. The country's strength and stability depend on the development of the national economy. This is also imperative to achieve the goals of self-reliance, modernization, and the elimination of poverty. We should take full advantage of advanced technology and the financial opportunities available in the world.

We should provide the people the full opportunity to work by removing dishonesty and obstructions. Giving a thrust to the welfare of the poor is an important part of our economic policy. It is imperative to ensure that the fruits of development reach the poor and reduce the differences in income and opportunities.

While encouraging industrial development, we cannot neglect agriculture. Without expediting its development, it will not be possible for us to achieve speedy economic development or eradicate poverty. Acceleration in economic growth cannot be brought about merely by slogans. Economic growth can be achieved by providing more water, electricity, roads, new technology, fertilizers, good seeds, and adequate loans. We have taken steps to invest more in agriculture. The prices of phosphate and potassium fertilizers have been reduced considerably by subsidies. This will enhance the produce of agriculturists and will help their economical development. Agriculturists need more water for their fields. We will formulate a national policy on water sharing and control.

There are several issues connected with the resettlement of people who are affected by distribution and the use of water as well as irrigation projects. In the interest of the nation, these issues should be resolved through negotiations. From the recent agreement reached by Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan on Sardar Sarovar project, it has become clear that such issues can be resolved by negotiations only.

I feel sad that even after so many years of independence, we are not able to provide basic amenities fully to the people, especially the poor living in rural and urban areas. The people's faith in the capability and efficiency of the government will be strengthened when we are able to provide them to every citizen. Last month, I called a conference of chief ministers in Delhi. We decided to provide pure drinking water, basic health, basic education, electricity, and roads to the people living in rural and urban areas as well as houses to poor and homeless families. Midday meals should also be arranged in primary schools in rural and urban areas. Preparing a program to achieve solid results by 2000 was discussed at the conference. More funds will be spent on essential services, the development of drought affected areas, and the welfare of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, minorities, and the disabled. Those living in urban slums have so far been not provided with housing and other civic amenities. Therfore, we are making a provision of 2.5 billion rupees this year. States will have increased participation in the implementation of these programs.

The Eighth Five-Year Rural Development Plan provides 300 billion rupees for rural development. We plan to increase this to at least 600 billion rupees in the Ninth Five-Year Development Plan. The scope of institutions

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

working under village administration system has been expanded and they have been given more powers.

In our economic system, many new opportunities exist for productivity-linked employment, especially for self-employment. Educated youths from poor families can now take full advantage of these opportunities. Many employment schemes are being implemented at present. Under our proposed self-employmenet schemes, at least one million unemployed educated youths from both urban and rural areas will benefit this year alone. Youths will be provided training, more subsidies and (?concessions). This will benefit a large number of youths, without discrimination on the basis of religion, race or any other reason. I am specially concerned about craftsmen, artisans, weavers, and fishermen. They should also benefit from these opportunities. At present, an employment scheme to assure at least 100 days of employment a year to any member of a poor family seeking employment is being implemented in every five out of 10 lowest village level administrative units of the country. The government will implement this scheme in all the village administrative units of the country within the next two years.

There has been a widespread criticism of the public distribution system of essential commodities. The poor in many states have not benefited from this system. We have now decided to extensively revamp this distribution system. Now every poor family will receive at least 10 kg of rice and wheat every month below the normal prices. This scheme will start from 2 October — the birthday of Mahatama Gandhi. Nearly 340 million poor people will benefit from the full implementation of this scheme.

My government symbolizes backward and scheduled classes and tribes and other weaker sections. We want to increase their self-confidence and self-respect. The central and state governments will take steps to provide them with equal opportunities to gain a sense of economic self-dependence. Most of the people in this section of society are either landless or small farmers. Their land is not fertile due to the lack of development and irrigation facilities. There is a need to pay attention to this problem. We have decided to start implementing the [word indistinct] welfare scheme. Under this scheme, the government will make all arrangements to provide land, gardening and irrigation facilities for poor farmers of scheduled class and tribes and other backward classes.

Women, who constitute half of our population, are among the weaker sections of the society. We cannot ignore their participation in national administration. We have already declared our plan to reserve one-third of seats for women in the parliament and state legislative assemblies. Similarly, a proposal is under consideration to reserve one-third of government jobs for women.

Although comprehensive legislation has been passed in the parliament for the disabled, they still do not have equal opportunities. With the help of state government, we will effectively implement the laws to protect their rights. There is a need for an apex body in every state to provide them with training and basic rehabilitation services. Similarly, there is a need for such rehabilitation centers and training facilities in each district. We will take steps to enforce job reservation for the disabled and improve their welfare schemes. Those living in villages will be organized under a group called Sangam. Each of this group will receive 15,000 rupees for economic activities.

We enjoy the status of being the largest democracy in the world. We are proud of this fact. Due to the rapid growth in our population, we are not able to enjoy the many fruits of development. Some states like Kerala and Punjab have achieved a great deal of success in slowing down the rate of population growth. It is essential that in all other states both the government and the people jointly promote the small family norm. Concrete steps should be taken in this direction so that the fruits of development are enjoyed by all.

On this sacred occasion, I greet the armed forces of the country who are bravely discharging their responsibilities under difficult conditions in different parts of the country. We are proud of their achievements and dedicated service. We will continue to maintain the morale of our defense forces at all costs, as well as maintaining their equipment and fighting capabilities. We express gratitude to all the three wings of the armed and security forces who have made sacrifices for the country.

"We have to consider the introduction of new and sophisticated weapons in our neighborhood. I want to assure our countrymen that meeting security needs is our priority. We will not compromise on matters of national defense. We will increase and strengthen self-reliance in all areas. We have made progress in producing indigenous tanks and fighter planes and developing the Agni and Prithvi missiles. All these programs will be continued in accordance with the policies charted earlier."

Our scientists are worthy of praise for their excellent deeds. They have not only increased our defense capabilities, but have also contributed to our civil programs. Our achievements in space research are a matter of pride for us. We successfully launched for the second time in March this year the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle which placed a remote sensing satellite in space. Our

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

country is now among the very few that have attained this capability.

Our foreign policy is formulated keeping in view our national interests. It has a wide scope which includes making foreign environment favorable to us: "We attach priority to establishing good relations with our neighboring countries. We want to increase regional cooperation through bilateral measures, as well as within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. We want to resolve all remaining issues through bilateral talks and ask our neighbors to adopt a constructive approach. It is a point of satisfaction that our country has become a full dialogue partner in ASEAN and a member of the Asian Regional Forum."

We are an active member of the United Nations. We have extended full cooperation in the UN peacekeeping operations and widely promoted its socioeconomic programs. We believe that our claim to work as a permanent member of the expanded Security Council is appropriate. The expanded membership of the United Nations should in real terms be reflected in the Security Council and developing nations should be admitted as permanent members.

Today, there is a need for a comprehensive nonproliferation policy for global security. "We have signed conventions banning chemical and biological weapons. Today there is a need to eliminate weapons of mass destruction. We had hoped in this context that the negotiations being carried out on a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty [CTBT] would lead to a definite timeframe to eliminate nuclear weapons globally; however, the nuclear weapons nations are not to ready to accept this. They want to continue their right to possess nuclear weapons. We cannot agree on this.

"We must also keep in view the nuclear programs, both covert and overt, in our neighborhood. That is why we have made it clear that India will oppose any test ban treaty that imposes unacceptable conditions on us. The country is with us in our decision on this matter. We will not enter into any compromise on the matter of national defense."

Dear countrymen, we are entering the 50th year of our independence today. Now is the time for us to analyze and evaluate our successes and failures and move forward from here. We have achieved a lot since independence, which gives us the confidence and inspiration to work for the advancement of our country. We have to identify our shortcomings and ponder where we committed mistakes. We must not be proud of our achievements, because much still remains to be accomplished. Nevertheless, our shortcomings and failures must not disappoint us.

The global scenario is changing very quickly. These changes cannot wait. Therefore, we must not rest on our laurels and become complacent. We must move forward to enable India to soon achieve its high position in the world. This is an important turning point in our history. Our country is going to emerge as a strong economic power in the next few years. We have to remain ever vigilant to safeguard the dignity and honor of the country. Our forefathers have given us the sacred formula for self-dependence. They have also taught us to depend on our own resources as far as possible.

We are now facing internal problems and external pressures. If necessary, the country will have to be ready to unitedly face any such problem. Our struggle for freedom and experiences gained since independence have created a confidence in us that we can build a golden and prosperous future. Our 950 million people are our greatest asset, be they farm workers producing food grains or skilled industrial workers, or scientists working in laboratories, or soldiers defending our borders, or our youth. They are all zealously engaged in building a strong and prosperous India. Whenever a great nation arises and begins to move forward, nobody can stop it.

We are passing through the last phase of this important century. A new awareness has arisen in our country. We are now preparing to enter the 21st century. It is the duty of the government and every political party, intelligentsia, and the citizens of the country as a whole to renew their pledge at this historical moment to build a new India. I have full faith in my countrymen. We will have to move forward with full hope, courage, and self-confidence. On this historic day, I appeal to the countrymen to resolve to work for building an India where every Indian can keep his head aloft with pride, rising above caste, creed, and religion. Now, I request all of you to say with me: Hail India! Hail India! Hail India!

India: Notification Issued for First Phase of Polling in Kashmir

BK1408101796 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The process of assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir began today after a gap of nine years with the issue of notification for the first phase of polling in 26 of the 87 constituencies. As per the schedule Kupwara, Baramula, Leh, Kargil, Rajaori, and Punch will go to the polls on the seventh of next month. Polling in the remaining constituencies is scheduled to be held in three phases on the 16th, 21st, and 30th. The last date for filing nominations in the first phase of polling in 26 assembly constituencies is Wednesday [21 August] next. Scrutiny will take place

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the next day while withdrawals will be allowed up to the 24th of this month. Counting of votes will be taken up on 1st October. For polling on the 16th, 21st, and 30th of next month, notifications will be issued by the state governor on the 23d and 27th of this month and on the sixth of next month.

The assembly constituencies which are going to the polls on 7th September are Karnah, Kupwara, Laulab, Handwara, Langet, Uri, Rafiabad, Sopor, (Guresh), Bandipura, Sonawari, Sangrama, Baramula, Gulmarg, (Ratan), (Nobra), Leh, Kargil, Zanskar, Nowshera, Darhal, Rajaori, (Kalakot), (Surankot), Mendhar, and Punch-Haweli.

India: United Front Criticizes OIC Statement on Kashmir Elections

BK1508005696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United Front has criticized the Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, for its statement on holding assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The party spokesman, Mr. Jaipal Reddy, said in New Delhi today that it is very unfortunate that OIC allowed itself to be misguided by Pakistan in issuing a 12-point declaration. Mr. Reddy said Pakistan should see the basic reality that free and fair elections for Lok Sabha were held in the state. He affirmed that the government will ensure peaceful elections for the state assembly also.

India: Foreign Secretary Says Delhi To Veto CTBT in Present Form

BK1508095096 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India will veto the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty in its present form. This was made clear by the foreign secretary, Mr. Salman Haider, at a meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on external affairs today. Atul Tiwari takes a closer look at New Delhi's stand.

[Begin recording] [Tiwari] As the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, CTBT, at Geneva entered the last phase, India's has expressed its determination to block the treaty if the current draft is not amended. Ignoring American pressure, India has stuck to its demand to veto the treaty till its concerns are met with in the final document on the treaty. A draft text says that the pact will become law only when ratified by 44 key states which possess nuclear power reactors, including India. Indian ambassador at the talks, Ms. Arundhati Ghose, has, however, made it clear that India will veto the pact till it provides for total disarmament.

[Brajesh Mishra, former foreign secretary — name and title identified from screen caption] The draft nearly goes to preventing other states from becoming nuclear weapon states. The nuclear five are votaries of what is now being called nuclear apartheid.

[Tiwari] Earlier, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, had declared in the Lok Sabha that India will not succumb to US pressure to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty as the treaty amounts to impose unprecedented obligations on the country. Cutting across the party line, the opposition has been one with the government on this issue. So far, 2,047 nuclear tests have been conducted by the exclusive group of five nuclear powers. The Indian objection seeks to have the goal of total nuclear disarmament within a fixed time frame, a ban on the cold testing in laboratories, and an amendment into the Entry-Into-Force clause.

[Sujeet Dutt, Defense Analyst, Institute of Defense Studies and Analysis — name and title identified from screen caption] These countries are supporting the CTBT. They are also insisting that India should sign the Entry-Into-Force [EIF] clause which we are opposed to. In fact, our major objection currently to the CTBT is that the EIF should be removed.

[C. Balachandran, Defense Analyst — name and title identified from screen caption] Main objection is this that the Entry-Into-Force almost has the object of compelling India to sign it. India does not want to sign it.

[Tiwari] The five nuclear powers seems to have adopted a rigid stand on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty while India has made it clear that it is not going to succumb to any pressure. [end recording]

India: Radio Reports Reasons for Delhi's Rejection of CTBT Draft

BK1508041196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0255 GMT 15 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, CTBT, failed yesterday after India rejected a draft version that (?had been) two and a half years in the making. With no consensus to move ahead on CTBT, Western diplomats said they will now explore other ways to put the draft before the UN General Assembly in New York next month.

India rejected the draft because it contains the threat of unspecified measures against a country if it decided not to ratify the treaty. India has been opposed to the draft CTBT also because, it does not contain any provision for the nuclear weapon countries to give up their arsenals within a time-bound framework. India's ambassador to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the talks, Ms. Arundhati Ghoshe, said New Delhi will not block the technical report to the plenary session of the UN Disarmament Conference today that (?would draw) attention to its objections.

Iran has also objected to the draft because it includes Israel in the West Asia group of the Executive Council that will be established to enforce the treaty. Reports from London add that Pakistan and Iran have raised fresh objections to the draft and are seeking amendments. (?They sought) amendments to cover a ban not only on nuclear explosions but also on all forms of nuclear testing, including those through computer simulation.

Iran

Iran: Iranian Official on Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

LD1508074296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the failure of the talks on the ban on nuclear tests, the U.S. secretary of state said: Washington intends to present the comprehensive draft proposal on the ban on nuclear tests to the UN General Assembly. The opposition by Iran and India to the signing of the draft proposal of the pact on the ban on nuclear tests was the reason for the failure of the talks.

The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran [Sirus Naseri] in the Geneva talks said in a telephone interview with the Central News Unit today: The task of the conference is not completed yet and the opportunity exists for another attempt. He added: It requires real determination, which currently seems to be lacking here.

Mr. Naseri said the pact was extremely important. He said: We and many developing countries have for many years sought the implementation of such a pact. But the prepared text is far from what we wanted. If the remaining problems had been solved we would have been able to accept the rest of the treaty.

He said: In spite of America's sabotage, we are endeavoring to solve those problems.

Iran: Delegate Raises '3 Concerns' to Test Ban Treaty Draft

LD1308122096 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, Aug. 13, IRNA — The official five nuclear power states face objections from Iran to the draft text on a comprehensive test ban treaty, according to experts from the 61-nation conference on disarmament in Geneva.

Iran delegate Hamid Baidi is said to have raised "three concerns" that must be addressed before Iran would accept agreement, which needs to be approved by consensus.

The objections, according to the FINANCIAL TIMES Tuesday [13 August], are that the treaty does not include a wider commitment to total nuclear disarmament and the so-called "national technical means" for monitoring that could be used as cover for spying.

The third demand is that Israel's membership of the Executive Council should be as a Western nation and not as part of the Middle East group.

Iran with several other non-aligned countries have been seeking a commitment by the nuclear power states, Britain, France, Russia, China and the U.S. to begin wider disarmament talks within a framework, which Baidi said should be referred to in the treaty.

The 61-nation conference is hoping to endorse the draft text on a comprehensive test ban this week so it can go to the UN General Assembly next month.

Iran: Commentary Views Objections to Proposal on Nuclear Test Ban

LD1408202196 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1700 GMT 14 Aug 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Although America has backed a draft proposal on a nuclear test ban and has tried to win its ratification in the Geneva conference, the opposition of a number of countries has in effect prevented the conference from passing the proposal. In a bid to impose its will on others and at the same time achieve some success on the international arena, America has been trying to ensure the ratification of a proposal, which in essence suffers from some fundamental shortcomings.

Countries opposing the draft proposal, including Iran and India, have threatened that if the document is not altered, they will refuse to sign it. In view of the importance of winning an unanimous approval for the proposal, the refusal of even one country to sign it can effectively block its ratification.

India objects to certain segments of the draft proposal where penalties and punishments have been envisaged for countries who fail to comply with the nuclear tests ban. India believes that the ban, as formulated and proposed by the world's nuclear powers, is an effort aimed at maintaining the existing gap between major powers and the other countries of the world.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

India is worried that it will come under a lot of pressure from the way that the major powers will use the article concerning penalties and punishments.

Iran's objection to the draft proposal on banning nuclear tests is brought about by the other shortcoming of the document. The submitted draft proposal on banning nuclear tests envisages the formation of a council called the International Council, which will be responsible for supervising the implementation of the final treaty. The draft proposal has made the Zionist regime one of the members of the council and Iran believes that in view of its past record of involvement in nuclear activities, that regime cannot be a member of the council in charge of supervising the nuclear test ban.

Iran: Clinton's 'Long List' of 'Defeats, Blunders' Described

NC1308153696 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 5 Aug 96 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "The United States—Shackled by the Immature Performance of Amateur Politicians"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

What is going on in Washington? What plans is the White House hatching? What programs are now being formulated by the amateur U.S. politicians?

It is not as difficult to seek the answers to the above questions as it appears. The new wave of hasty propaganda by the United States is evidence of all of the above. All this assumes new meaning as it is geared to covering the contemptible defeat and failure by the United States on the international level. It is precisely for the attainment of the above objectives that Washington has resorted to a propaganda war. By declaring a state of alert for the U.S. military forces in the Persian Gulf it can divert attention from the country 's internal affairs to beyond its borders, and by transferring the center of the crisis from the United States to the Persian Gulf region it can wriggle out from under the heavy burden of reproach of its friends and foes, or at least minimize it to some extent.

Can Washington's rash decisions and measures yield any results for Clinton and will they be able to rescue the becalmed vessel of U.S. foreign policy?

Of course, it is possible that once again Clinton and his associates, with their usual simplistic gullibility, may be optimistic about the results of these actions. However, all facts and figures indicate that this time propaganda and a psychological war are not feasible and may even have the reverse effect of isolating the United States more than ever on the international political and propaganda scene.

Let us not forget that the Washington echelons' efforts at the G-7 summit of industrial nations — convened for the purpose of whipping up an atmosphere — on the Dhahran incident ended in utter failure. Clinton returned empty-handed from Lyons to the United States as he could not convince his allies to emulate the erroneous and malicious U.S. policy. At that session, in response to such an atmosphere whipped up by Clinton, the U.S. allies emphasized to him that the era of leveling baseless and unsubstantiated accusations with the aim of generating a psychological war against independent countries opposed to U.S. policies had ended.

It is not to the U.S.' benefit for it to blurt out allegations without prior verification and study, thus making all its claims and utterances appear suspect. As soon as any event occurs, even before any preliminary investigation or inquiry can take place, it blames all the countries as being the agents for such anti-American incidents.

World public opinion has not forgotten the horrifying Oklahoma explosion when the United States initially accused various countries of involvement. However, subsequent investigations revealed that it was a discontented American who had been responsible and who had been waiting for an opportunity to take revenge.

The clear implication is that in American society there are a large number of dissatisfied individuals who are waiting for a chance to take revenge. The newspaper pages and the results of the federal police investigations indicate that by initiating a psychological war and whipping up such a climate, Washington is unable to mask such obvious and tangible problems and cannot divert world opinion toward other issues for a prolonged period of time.

In addition, the overt and covert role of the Zionist circles in intensifying such propaganda is completely understandable and recognizable. According to the reports disseminated by the U.S. mass media, the Israeli espionage organization, Mosad, is the actual culprit in the dossier of the Dhahran explosion. Therefore, the Zionists are naturally seeking to divert the world's attention toward another direction in order to conceal the evidence and cover up all the information obtained by the U.S. federal police and the U.S. military security forces regarding the direct and irrefutable role of Mosad in the Dhahran events.

However, is American society and hierarchy so subservient to and shackled by the decisions and insinuations of a few Zionist associates of Clinton that they

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

are prepared to forfeit what remains of the U.S.' international prestige? Of course, on the eve of the presidential elections, Clinton is trying to remain ensconced in the White House at any cost and by all possible means. Will this weak performance in the face of such events — information about which has been leaked to the American mass media — not be detrimental to Clinton and his party of Democrats?

It is possible that the amateur faction of American politicians may give a negative answer to the above questions, but facts and figures indicate that this error of judgment and action is another in the long list of similar humiliating defeats and blunders by Clinton and his coterie. This is because the failure of Clinton and the White House is far too serious to be covered up by such ineffective and violent tactics or to mitigate such obvious and tangible facts so as to change the situation on the international scene to the benefit of the novice American politicians.

Iran: Daily Sees 'Retrogressive' U.S. Foreign Policy

NC1408130996 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Aug 96 p 2

[Unattributed Commentary: "Security and Insecurity From the White House Window"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On each occasion when the term "national security" is used by the White House, it only implies the extension of the umbrella of U.S. interventionism. In addition, the Americans, regardless of whether they are politicians or journalists, use terms such as "the information process" or "intelligence communities" and disseminate news from sources that can only be interpreted as being the viewpoints of the CIA, FBI, and the National Security Council.

Now, William Perry, the U.S. Defense Secretary, has reiterated: "Even though it does not point to a specific attack at any specific time — the United States has deduced from its information sources that we should be on top alert for the possibility of an 'imminent' attack."

American officials have stepped up the propaganda war against Iran and are seeking to throw blame for the crisis beyond their borders. There is no doubt that the picture that the United States wishes to paint of Iran is rooted in the victory of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the consequent termination of the U.S. interests. The second point is that Iran continues its multifaceted reconstruction in various fields, with consummate steadfastness and with no regard for U.S. animosity and all kinds of interventionism.

More than anyone else, the Americans are aware that all that has occurred in Islamic Iran in the period of construction and development far exceeds all what happened in the entire course of the Pahlavi reign. However, the difference lies in the fact that every action that took place during the shah's reign was geared to the investment of U.S. capital in Iran while today whatever takes place deals a lethal blow to the roots of such dependence and is a sign of the transformation of Iran into an example for the Islamic world.

Another factor that exacerbates this U.S. tender spot is Iran's political acumen on the international level. Today Europe is at loggerheads with the United States over Iran. This is a product of Iran's logical behavior on the international scene. If Iran is being accused of terrorism by the United States today, it is the United States which has in practice proved itself the epitome of government-sponsored terrorism by allocating funds to topple the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Another point that merits mention is the U.S. perplexity. In other words, its foreign policy has been experiencing some new shocks during the last few years of the twentieth century. These shocks are more evident in Saudi Arabia and Japan than in other regions where there is a U.S. presence.

In addition, it appears that explosions inside the United States such as the one in Oklahoma city (1996), the one at the World Trade Center (1993) or in the Olympic Park in Atlanta have created new areas of greater confusion for the United States, which professes to be the proponent of a new world order. The formation of an American militia opposed to the White House has further aggravated this confusion.

It is natural that in the face of such domestic insecurity the White House should once again be seeking the cause of its crisis outside its own borders. The still-unsolved cases of the explosions on board two American aircraft (in Lockerbie and New York) has added to this bewilderment.

International observers believe that U.S. officials — that is, the Congress and particularly the president, who have inadvertently been transformed into "a theater for political comedy" — are striving by all possible means to escape from the international conclusion that the U.S. internal unrest is the result of that country's attempt to export its crisis to the world.

The remarks by the American Defense Secretary that "even though it does not point to a specific attack at any specific time, the United States has deduced from its information sources that we should be on top alert for the possibility of an 'imminent' attack" — implies a threat to those who can only live honorably by throwing

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

off the yoke of U.S. domination rather than that any threat to the United States.

Even now, the White House, which is stewing over its lack of foresight due to its imperialist nostalgia [preceding word in English transliterated into Persian] considers military force as the solution to this paradox [preceding word in English transliterated in Persian]. It is not willing to sacrifice itself for its traditional foreign policy — which is now a mere course known as "Pentagonism" in the schools of international relations at universities — so posterity will be able to learn from its negative repercussions and have historical and eloquent reasons of such retrogressive modes of thought.

Iran: U.S. Line on Iran Seen as Attempt To Shake Its Stability

MM1408150996 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Aug 96 p 9

[Article by Huda al-Husayni: "The American Change: Military Confrontation Between United States and Iran Will Not Take Place Unless Washington Establishes That Tehran Had a Hand in the al-Khubar Explosion"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Defense Department has become convinced that it should soften the aggressive language it has been using in addressing Iran. This is the result of its realization that the U.S. Administration is adamant to rectify the false impression that has been spreading about an impending American- Iranian confrontation.

This follows some Israeli hints that any American strike against Iran might only help to make the Iranian people rally around their leadership against an outside enemy, drive Iran into further activating its terrorist operations, and ensure the success of its efforts to destroy the Middle East peace process.

The Israelis and a large number of senior officials of the U.S. Administration are agreed that Iran's principal objective is to derail the peace process, because the success of the peace process will, in Iran's view, lead to an American alliance with the moderate Arab countries and Israel against any extremist enemy.

What arouses the concern of both American and Israeli experts is the way in which Iran has succeeded firstly in operating behind a veil and secondly in having the ability to prevent penetration of the organizations it finances.

These experts believe that Iran's success in camouflaging its role saves Tehran from any angry reactions. It was this fact that prompted Europe to refuse to cooperate with the United States in imposing a total economic boycott on Iran. These experts make no secret of their concern over Iran's ability to bestow a nice attractive face on its actions, enabling it to win the approval of Turkey and the five Asian republics [not further identified].

However, the experts believe that despite Iran's skill in concealing the ugly face and depicting the pretty face, the Iranian leadership is these days committing a radical error, particularly now that the power of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, who is said to be a pragmatist and favors openness, has began to wane before the activities of Ayatollah Khamene'i, whose domination of financial and military matters in Iran has led to the return to terrorism and to the endeavors being made to destabilize the Gulf countries.

Though the Gulf countries, which are more exposed to Iranian attempts to shake their stability, have been enjoying strong stability and speedy recovery, U.S. fears are centered on Iran's attempt to secure nuclear equipment, "and they will acquire it with greater effectiveness and at lower cost than was the case with Iraq, and will use it to spread instability in the countries neighboring them, and then we will have to be prepared to pay $70 per barrel of oil," as one American expert in Iranian terrorism has stated. So to prevent this happening the Americans' line of thinking tends to sponsor a campaign aimed at shaking Iran's stability. There are several factors helping this American campaign to succeed, namely, the continued deterioration of the Iranian economy, the frustration of the hopes the Iranian middle class had pinned on the revolution, and the spread of corruption within the ranks of the political and religious leaders and their followers to a degree that was never witnessed in the days of the shah. Then, according to this senior American official, Iran will be ready for a counterrevolution.

Iran: Commentary Calls U.S. 'Main Cause of Insecurity' in Region

NC1408153396 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 31 Jul 96 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "The United States—the Main Cause of Insecurity in the Region"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nowadays, the Persian Gulf region is the venue for unobtrusive comings and goings of high-level U.S. military brass. At the beginning of this week, a Pentagon military official visited some of the Persian Gulf shaykhdoms and inspected the American military base in the region. Currently, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry is on a visit to Saudi Arabia.

These visits come in the wake of the recent explosions at the Dhahran air base, which resulted in heavy

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

casualties for the Americans, and indicate the U.S. fear of a recurrence of similar incidents in the region. Last week, the American officials called for the evacuation of the American military personnel and their families from Saudi Arabia and the U.S. State Department spokesman announced Washington's concurrence on allocating funds for the purpose.

Besides, in the past few months, the American military officials have intensified their surveillance at U.S. military bases, embassies, and even other indirect representations of the United States, such as offices for the sale of [U.S. airline] tickets and so on all over the Middle East.

The Americans dread the deep discontentment of the Saudi Arabian people more than anything else and they consider it the reason for possible vengeance by the people against the Americans. This attitude can be easily perceived in the various articles and reports by the news sources in the United States and Europe. The fact is that if this dissatisfaction generates fury and animosity among the people in Saudi Arabia and all the shaykhdoms of the region toward the Americans, the presence of Americans further spawns and heightens this outrage among the people. Hence these two phenomena, which are the wave of popular discontent and the daily-increasing presence of the Americans in the region, complement one another.

The Americans do not have the slightest justification for their military presence in the Persian Gulf. During the past few years, the pretext of the "danger from Iraq" and even the chimerical danger from Iran have constantly been used for stepping up U.S. and Israeli political and military intervention in those regions [Iran and Iraq]. The Arab regimes in the regime have deliberately or inadvertently become intimidated by this strategy. They are even vying with one another in establishing diplomatic relations with the Zionist regime, in broadening the scope of U.S. military activity in the region, or in providing military bases to the Americans.

This dangerous political infatuation, which stems from the defensive posture and the immense weakness of the Arabs in the face of the American and Zionist hegemonistic policies in the region, is not only a potential threat to the territorial integrity and the national sovereignty of the Arab countries, but to the entire region.

Political ambivalence and the sense of inability to express opposition to such domineering policies in the past five years have plunged the Middle East and Persian Gulf regions into deep crises.

There is no doubt that today every government that bows down to the sedition-fomenting policies of the United States and the Zionist regime in the region will be faced with undesirable chaos. It is obvious therefore that the interventionist policies and this disarray will create conditions for foreign intervention in the region. This in turn would breed further anarchy.

This phenomenon is true of the already turbulent Middle East and Persian Gulf region. Hence it would be worthwhile for U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry and all the disillusioned high-level U.S. military officials who are making overt and covert trips to the Persian Gulf region to realize that the dissatisfaction of the people in the Persian Gulf region is a phenomenon that the Americans themselves have created with their performance in the political, cultural, economic, military, and information fields in the tension-ridden, fervently seething Middle East and Persian Gulf region.

Iran: Navy Says U.S. Taking Bribes To Allow Iraqi Oil Exports

LD1508102096 Tehran IRNA in English 0943 GMT 15 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 15, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran rejected the recent U.S. claims concerning Tehran's alleged violation of U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Iraq as well as biased allegations claiming that Iran smuggles out Iraqi oil products, a statement issued by the naval 'Khatam ul-Anbia' headquarters reported here Wednesday [14 August] evening.

Stressing Iran's support for the U.N. resolutions, the statement said that although the U.N. has assigned the U.S. and its allies to supervise the implementation of Resolution 661, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken special measures to prevent any violation against its ground and sea borders.

Few thousands of vessels have so far been intercepted and seized in Arvand Rud (river). This included over 100 vessels with Iranian flag using falsified manifests of Iranian ports which were trying to deceive the U.N. forces, it added.

Commenting on imports and exports of goods to and from the southern Persian Gulf countries via open ports of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), it said that shipments go through waters under the supervision of the U.S. naval fleet. However due to special dealings between the American fleet and the multinational companies no ship has been seized.

Through becoming operational of 'al-Bakr' and 'al-Omayyeh' oil platforms in Iraqi and Kuwaiti waters,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

oil tankers have berthed at these platforms under the supervision of the U.S. naval fleet. The American fleet by receiving bribes under the pretext of passage charges, have allowed export of Iraqi oil.

These operations have been conducted at a time when the U.N. has not yet allowed sale of Iraqi oil for purchase of foodstuff and medicine, the statement underlined.

Iran: Khamene'i Receives Turkish Premier, Welcomes New Government

LD1108181096 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The honorable leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, received visiting Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan this evening.

During the meeting, the eminent leader referred to the existence of a political will in Iran to expand relations and cooperation with the neighboring and brotherly country of Turkey in all fields. He said: The two countries have a great deal of potential and resources to deepen their relations and we hope that the agreements reached between the two countries will be implemented as soon as possible.

His Eminence the leader pointed out the opposition of the enemies of Islam to the expansion of relations between Iran and Turkey, and said: The enemies of Islam act clearly to safeguard their goals and interests, Islamic nations should also pay attention to their own interests and priorities and not hesitate to expand their cooperation in all areas in a brotherly manner.

The eminent leader of the Islamic revolution stressed: You [the people of Turkey] acted and struggled in the name of Islam and managed to achieve victory. God will also assist you to gain power and become permanent [as a government], God willing, thanks to the blessings of Islam.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the coming to power in Turkey of a government that respects Islamic values is an auspicious experience. He said: Because of this, Islamic countries and nations will deal with you in a more sincere manner and that is a very good opportunity for Turkey to expand its relations with the Islamic world. His eminence the leader stressed: God willing this [an Islamic government] will be a continuous and lasting matter in Turkey. Your nation and country can become a genuine and great power through adopting Islamic slogans and tendencies and that will no doubt benefit the Turkish people, parties, and policies.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i described the Zionist regime as an extremely dangerous creature and said: One must keep in mind that, when its interests dictate, Israel easily treads everything underfoot and you, as a government that has recently come to power, must act on your interests, and we hope that your country will rid itself, at the appropriate time, of the recent link with Israel.

At the meeting, the Turkish prime minister expressed great pleasure and gratitude at meeting the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution and said that one of the aims of his visit to Iran was to meet the eminent leader. He praised the achievements of the Islamic revolution in various arenas and said: The two countries can, in view of their resources and special characteristics, expand relations in all areas on the basis of fraternity and equality.

Mr. Erbakan described his meetings with the Iranian officials as very fruitful and added: Ankara is determined to expand relations with Tehran in all areas and fields. The Turkish prime minister said: By expanding relations between the two countries, we will show that Islamic fraternity can be achieved and that it plays an important role in all areas. Mr. Erbakan added: With the expansion of cooperation between Iran and Turkey, all countries will see the results and benefits of Islamic fraternity, and the ties between the two countries will serve as an example and a model.

Iran: Commentary Says Turkey's Erbakan Visit of 'Immense Importance'

NC1408211196 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 13 Aug 96 p 4

[Commentary by Matin Moslem: "Beyond the Frontiers of Relations"—received via Internet]

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan concluded his visit yesterday. The Turkish prime minister's three-day stay in Tehran and the meetings and agreements with our country's officials can be considered as one of the most important news items disseminated by the domestic and foreign media in the past few days, in view of the special circumstances that prevail in the region.

Erbakan's visit to Tehran under such conditions is of immense importance for two reasons: One is the relations between the two countries and the future prospects based on these relations, and the second is the negative and swift reaction to the recent actions of the United States.

However, as far as Tehran-Ankara relations are concerned the current trend in Iranian-Turkish relations

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

should be accelerated appropriately. These relations are endowed with a very bright future, despite some transitory developments. What is important in bilateral relations is that the two sides have reciprocal interests in broadening these relations. Since these interests are based on longstanding traditions compared to those of some other countries, they can be developed extensively.

The signing of an accord valued at $20 billion and the increase in Turkey's imports from Iran in the coming years to the value of more than $2 billion is in itself an indication of the fact that the two sides have realized the importance of these relations.

However, beyond the realm of economic relations — which are, of course, of special importance — Turkey's approach to the latest U.S. measures against Iran merit attention. In view of its ancient and longstanding traditional friendship with Iran, Turkey has realized and in fact experienced that Iran's importance in the region is such that it is not possible and would not be logical to ignore it. If we viewed the issue more succinctly, in relation to Ankara's economic resources, we would realize that the Turkish hierarchy is well aware of the fact that it cannot overlook Tehran.

Of course Iran's importance for Turkey extends far beyond the sphere of economic relations. The depth of Iran's strategy and conduct in the region and its impact on the world is such that Turkey considers its own strategic efficiency impossible without taking the Islamic Republic of Iran into consideration. On the other hand, the U.S. officials have exerted immense pressure on Erbakan and all the Turkish authorities during the past week to refrain from carrying out this visit, at least under the current circumstances.

However, his political logic (as was expected) and that of the other officials of his country not only resulted in the visit taking place but also in the adoption of an appropriate approach to the illegal U.S. bill. In fact the most massive economic accord was signed at the highest level with Iran.

Erbakan's action is admirable especially in view of the relations between Iran and Turkey. It can eliminate the previous misgivings in relations between the two countries and compensate for the slow pace of relations in the past two years.

Iran: U.S. Opposition to Turkey's Erbakan's Visit, Agreements Viewed

NC1408084496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 13 Aug 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] A U.S. State Department spokesmen has criticized the agreement on natural gas that was signed by high-ranking officials of Iran and Turkey on 12 August. The final agreement for the sale of natural gas to Turkey was concluded during Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's visit to Tehran. It provides for the sale of 190 billion cubic meters of natural gas to that country. The agreement will be put into effect in 1999. Iran will supply 4 billion cubic meters of natural gas to Turkey during the first year. The supply will be increased to 10 billion, beginning in 2005. The political observers have described the agreement as an important step for the improvement of the economic relations between the two countries.

However, reports say U.S. officials informed their Turkish counterparts on Sunday [11 August] that Washington was opposed to the agreement Ankara planned to sign with Tehran. It will be recalled that the Washington Administration put its sanctions against Iran into effect two weeks ago to pursue its illegitimate objectives and impose its policy on foreign countries.

Meanwhile, political experts have described Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's visit to Iran and the agreements he has signed in Tehran as an indication of Turkey's opposition to the U.S. decision to strengthen its sanctions.

The U.S. Administration regards Turkey's initiative as an indication of the failure of its efforts to isolate Iran. It has disclosed that it will assess the $20-billion agreement for the sale of natural gas to Turkey and take an appropriate approach. However, Turkey and Iran have decided to boost cooperation. Washington's reluctance to agree to their decision will not affect the friendly relations between Tehran and Ankara. Obviously, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's visit to Iran, the agreements he concluded, and the will of the officials in Ankara and Tehran to improve the relations between the two countries have ended the confusion that existed in their bilateral relations in the past.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran: Paper Discusses Implications of Turkey's Erbakan Visit

LD1308205996 Tehran SALAM in Persian 10 Aug 96 pp 3, 16

[From the "Political Note" column: "Erbakan One Step Ahead of Europe"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan is due to arrive in Tehran today at the head of a economic-political delegation, comprising a number of Turkish businessmen and representatives of that country's industrial firms. The reaction to this visit has been different in the political circles of Iran, Turkey, and even such third parties as the United States.

In Turkey the visit has been analyzed by various factions. The ultra-right factions and a number of Turkish army commanders are not happy with this visit. Some military sources in Ankara have said: "Erbakan will not solve any problems by holding talks with Iran and Syria, for these two states will continue supporting the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK]." Some political sources also believe that Erbakan's cabinet has annoyed the army by refusing to sign the final agreement with the Zionist regime on Tel Aviv-Ankara cooperation in the field of military industries, and by cancelling the planned visit of Israel's deputy defense minister.

These individuals believe that in the wake of the recent tragic developments in Tehran-Ankara ties, including the bombing of Iranian border regions by Turkish army helicopters and the death of two Iranian citizens, when they were hit by a car driven by a Turkish diplomat, the Iranian people's feelings have been hurt; and Erbakan has taken advantage of this situation in a crafty manner. That is, he has seized the opportunity to overcome the opposition of some army commanders to rapprochement between the two countries and has come to Tehran to mend fences with Iran.

The ultra-right in Turkey is also unhappy with the fact that Erbakan's visit has coincided with the intensification of the U.S. sanctions against Iran. They believe that at present the U.S. government is waiting to see which countries will support its stance against Iran, and that under such circumstances the visit to Tehran by Erbakan, as the prime minister of a NATO member country, may strain the future of Washington's relations with Ankara.

Contrary to the views of the ultra-right faction, Turkish businessmen and financial firms, some of which may even favor secular policies, offer a positive evaluation of Erbakan's visit to Tehran. They support Ankara's stance against the recent demands of Washington and believe that the visit to Iran will serve the interests of their firms.

Before the investiture of Erbakan's cabinet, Turkish industrialists and financial centers were wary of his fundamentalist views and preferred the formation of a secular cabinet. However, after hearing his reassuring policies, they decided to support his cabinet. [passage omitted]

During the past few years Iran and Turkey have enjoyed good economic relations, despite the fact that their political ties have not reached the desired level. And the Turkish merchants and financial firms have benefited more from these relations than their Iranian counterparts. Turkish merchants also realize that the two countries' economic ties can expand even further, for politically Erbakan is a step closer to Iran than his predecessors.

But how is this visit viewed inside our own country?

Many political circles in our country believe that Erbakan, his viewpoints, and finally his current visit should be assessed in the light of the existing political realities of the present international order and the conditions of Turkish society at present. These circles contend that there are a number of significant factors which render Erbakan's visit to Tehran valuable.

First of all, by selecting Tehran as the destination of his first official trip abroad (of course with the exception of a short visit to the Turkish-inhabited part of Cyprus), Erbakan is in fact declaring a particular stance. This is because in diplomatic conventions, it is customary for heads of states to use their first foreign trip to reveal some of their international viewpoints.

Choosing Tehran for his first visit in his capacity as Turkish prime minister shows that Erbakan wants to demonstrate at least some aspects of his policy of inclination toward the Islamic east, even though the visit may lead to an increase in domestic and international pressures on his newly-formed cabinet.

On the other hand, while the Americans were trying hard to discourage this trip, or were at least hoping that it would not coincide with Washington's efforts to mobilize everyone against Tehran, Erbakan still opted to come to Tehran and prove that, as far as solidarity with Iran is concerned, he is even one step ahead of Europe. He also showed that not only is he prepared to ignore Washington's calls for isolation of Iran, but he is also ready to take steps to expand relations between Tehran and Ankara. This is a step that few world leaders have been prepared to take under the special international circumstances in recent days.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Despite all these, however, two points must not be overlooked. The first point is that Erbakan's cabinet is under intense domestic and international pressures. Erbakan, who has ended the jinx blocking the path of Turkey's Islamists to political power, has chosen the policy of attracting — rather than confronting — his opponents in Turkey. He has done so because he does not hold many of the key levers of political power. This is the same policy and tactic adopted by Erbakan's opponents, including the military leaders, who prefer to avoid a military coup and instead are intent on integrating Erbakan's ideas in the country's secular political system.

The considerable growth of Islamic tendencies in Turkey during recent years is to some extent the result of the policy of patience and the tactic of gradually preparing the grounds, adopted by Erbakan and the Welfare Party. One must pin hope on the future prospects of this move and should assist Erbakan in this area.

The other point is that while we should welcome the fact that a cabinet which includes Islamists has acquired power in Turkey, we should not tie the national interests of our country to Erbakan and the Welfare Party or start gambling or betting on them.

Our talks in Tehran with Erbakan will pave the ground for the further expansion of Tehran-Ankara ties. However, we should not forget that Erbakan — despite all his positive ideas — is leading a country in which many officials who sign contracts with foreign countries do not stay in the office long enough to see the actual implementation of these contracts as they are invariably replaced by new officials when a new cabinet comes to power.

Iran: Daily Comments on Value of Gas Agreement With Turkey

LD1308124896 Tehran IRNA in English
1000 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — The English morning daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL Tuesday [13 August] commented on the signing of a multi-billion dollar gas deal by Tehran and Ankara and wrote that Iran's huge gas resources can best satisfy Turkey's energy requirements.

It noted that the dlrs. 20 billion accord, which spans more than two decades, would make Iran Turkey's second largest supplier of gas after Russia.

Analysts say that Iranian gas is economically cheaper, the editorial observed, adding that the deal also satisfied the desire of the two Muslim countries to develop relations in all domains.

Lauding Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan's decision to pursue his trip despite Washington's displeasure, it stressed that Erbakan's independent policy has won the appreciation of the Turkish people as well as the regional countries.

"His presence in Tehran brought its own economic benefits. Now, friends of the two countries predict much closer interaction between important Muslim neighbors and will broaden the landscape for political and cultural understanding," the daily concluded.

Iran: Minister—No Specific Security Problem in Kurdestan

LD1408083896 Tehran IRNA in English
0749 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA — Interior Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said here Tuesday [13 August] that there is no specific security problem in Kurdestan Province.

Making the remark at a session of the council in charge of security of western part of the country, he said that the counterrevolutionary elements are deeply annoyed by the massive development projects in Kurdestan as well as uplifting of economic conditions and the security measures taken.

Stressing that the committed people of Kurdestan Province live in security and tranquility, he said this indicates failure of enemies and foiling conspiracies hatched by arrogance and its agents in the region.

Besharati added that the world arrogance has deployed all its potentials to create hurdles for Iran and sow discord among the revolutionary people of the country under various pretexts.

He said the conspiracies were thwarted through following the guidelines provided by the leader, adoption of appropriate policies by the government and people's support.

The session reviewed the latest developments in the western provinces of the country.

Iran: Daily Welcomes Opening of Pakistani Embassy in Kabul

LD1408084796 Tehran IRNA in English
0532 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA — A morning daily Wednesday [14 August] welcomed the

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

recent decision by Pakistan to reopen its embassy in Kabul, Afghanistan.

In its editorial the English-language daily IRAN NEWS wrote that observers in Iran welcome the Pakistani good-will gesture as Iran always believed that Afghan's factional conflict should be settled by the mojahedin themselves.

"Others who should rightly have a say in Afghan affairs are neighboring Iran and Pakistan. These are the two countries which shouldered the burden of struggle of the Afghan masses for 14 years while the mojahedin were fighting against occupying Soviet forces and the communist-backed government in Kabul," commented the article.

It said that Pakistan and Iran were the countries which hosted millions of Afghan refugees and in some cases suffered many social and financial problems because of it.

"Both countries suffered because they were expecting that one day their neighbors will live in peace," the editorial said, adding that it has not happened so far.

"Even now it is not too late. A fresh ray on hope is the arrival of a new United Nations envoy Norbert Holl, a senior German diplomat charged with the responsibility of brokering peace among the warring mojahedin," commented the daily.

The article concluded by saying that what Pakistan was expected to do was to make the Taleban to sit down with others and find a solution to the problem acceptable to all.

Iran: Officials Attend Ceremony To Exchange Bodies With Iraq

LD1308150896 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1200 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The pure bodies of 65 martyrs of the sacred defense [Iran-Iraq war] were exchanged today for the bodies of Iraqi troops who died during the imposed war, on the Khosravi border [western Iran].

A number of representatives from the Interior Ministry, some Majles deputies from Kermanshahan Province, officials of the General Staff Command of the Armed Forces; and a number of the respected families of martyrs, the selfless devotees [war disabled] and former POW's, attended the funeral procession of the pure bodies of these martyrs. The procession was accompanied by a special military ceremony.

The participants chanted: God is Great and Death to America at the funeral procession and the children of the martyrs paid their respects by throwing flowers on the pure corpses of the martyrs of the imposed war.

Brigadier General Baqerzadeh, head of the committee for MIA's of the Islamic Republic of the General Staff Command of the Armed Forces, said that the Iranian MIA's numbered 35,000. He added: Since the ceasefire [with Iraq in August 1998], the bodies of 3,161 Iraqi troops have been delivered to the officials of that country, and the bodies of 2,500 Iranian martyrs have been handed over to Iran by the Iraqis.

Iran: Hashemi-Rafsanjani Lauded as Competent, 'Priceless Asset'

NC1408145796 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 31 Jul 96 p 2

[First installment of a two-part commentary by Mohammad Javad Hojjati-Kermani: "Mr. Hashemi Will Always Remain a 'Pillar of the Revolution'"—ellipses as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] O God: You know that the author of this article has no intentions either of flattery or of contradiction... and that what is being written by this pen after a period of silence is only with the intention of expressing wounded feelings which, every so often, have made me and make me pick up my pen to write out of solace...

Yes, I read in today's (9 Mordad 1375) [30 July 1996] issue of SALAM citing KEYHAN HAVA'I that "a group of political observers" who wish to remain anonymous have expressed their views (or better said, "thrown in a remark"!) that Mr. Hashemi should retire from executive affairs and deal with theoretical and fundamental issues!!!...

...A warning knell sounded in my ear that a number of satanic people and yet another group of ignorant and naive — or maybe cunning and sly — people want to deprive the revolution of competent and experienced people like Mr. Hashemi and are resorting to demagogy and hooliganism to upset things.

I once told His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Revolution; Mr. Hashemi; and Haj Ahmad Aqa Khomeyni [Ayatollah Khomeyni's son] as I recall, that after the demise of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, these three would be the helmsmen of the ship of the revolution and the three upright pillars of the revolution... I continue to believe this. But Ahmad Aqa left us, and only the leader of the revolution and his faithful and longlasting friend Hashemi were left. These two have advanced the revolution with extreme sincerity and love until today and they have kept it safe from domestic and

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

foreign enemies... And the remarks of the sagacious leader of the revolution — who has always referred to Mr. Hashemi as a president who is unsurpassed in the world, a person who is devoted, willing to serve, a revolutionary, and experienced — are like a thorn in the eyes of the envious, who cannot see a strong bond among Khomeyni's children... Mr. Hashemi has also always greatly respected the esteemed leader and has expressed his obedience to the supreme jurisconsult's guidance and directives. And as much as all this is a source of great pleasure and gratitude for me, it is a source of spite and grudge for the enemies, the envious, the spiteful, and the sick at heart. Add to these people the naive and illiterate people who do not favor the clear-sighted and progressive stands of the president — and even of his pious, competent, and revolutionary daughter — and, because of their bigoted stands, accuse him of "reviewing issues more than is necessary". These are the same types of accusations that were aimed at the Imam as far as music, chess, women's activities, and so on were concerned... And had it not been for the courage and cleverness of the esteemed Imam, these gentlemen would have continued to consider music as being ceremonially unclean — as there still are many who think so — and would continue to consider chess and even women's involvement in politics, and so on and so forth, to be ceremonially unclean...

I believe that at present there are two pillars holding up this revolution and that it is necessary for all of us to preserve these pillars. I am not so unwise as to equate the position of esteemed leader, who is the supreme jurisconsult, and the position of the president... I am speaking about Mr. Hashemi as an extremely priceless asset of the revolution who was the closest friend of the late leader and is the closest friend of the new leader of the revolution and who, like a strong arm, will always serve the revolution and the leader of the revolution...

Until tomorrow...

Iran: Commentator Continues Defense of Hashemi-Rafsanjani

NC1508081296 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 1 Aug 96 p 2

[Second and last installment of a two-part commentary by Mohammad Javad Hojjati-Kermani: "Mr. Hashemi Will Always Remain a 'Pillar of the Revolution'"—ellipses as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] O God, help me to be sincere in what I write, and make me to work effectively in Your path.

...Yesterday I spoke about Mr. Hashemi as being one of the pillars of the Islamic Revolution and the fact that he is so familiar with this revolution, that he will always remain with it and will be one of its major, effective, and active members — in both the theoretical, ideological, and practical senses. And if some person or group murmurs that the era of Mr. Hashemi has come to an end and that from now on — after the completion of his presidential term — he should only deal with theoretical issues, he is either speaking out of ignorance or is shallow, spiteful, and cunning... Otherwise, who can ignore all the persistent and continuous efforts by this true child of Khomeyni since before the revolution — from about 1958 — until today and ask him to use his endless energy only for scientific issues?! Those who have known Mr. Hashemi for many years — and I am one of them — know that he is a hard worker and that he loves to work as much as he loves to deal with theoretical and scientific issues.

In the beginning, before he began to deal with scientific and theoretical issues, he passed unnoticed... And possibly, in describing him, one might say that his enthusiasm for work and his love of service and striving sometimes prevent him from "deliberating" in detail the obvious or unknown negative aspects of an issue. Possibly it is because of this that the critics of Mr. Hashemi, namely those who criticize his economic policy, disagree with his views and want to throw such a fiery comet out of the arena of the revolution and to send him to the library or to a school!... In my opinion, from the point of view of a revolutionary and even of a pure Iranian, there is no bigger mistake than this, both from the political and the social standpoints...

I say the same things not only about Mr. Hashemi but about all the others, like Mr. Musavi, the hard-working and devoted prime minister during the war; Mr. 'Asgar-Owladi who spent 14 years in prison during the monarchy and an extremely active person during the revolution; and all those similar to these two, irrespective of whatever group or line they may follow... Why should we be treating people like these so badly?... As everyone knows, I myself theoretically and ideologically disagree with these brothers, including Mr. Hashemi... But difference of opinion, stands, and methods is one thing and rejection and "striking out" at someone another... And it is this last part that is bad and harmful and a plague to the revolution, because I do not think that there are any two people who have the same views on everything... In short, at this sensitive juncture in the revolution, we should try to safeguard the bright personalities of the revolution and, by profoundly understanding the political games and factional maneuvering, try not to deviate from the main line of the revolution or from the revolutionary ideal, which is to safeguard our lofty ethical, moral, and practical values. We should try to safeguard

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the personalities, people, and groups who are faithful to the revolution and bear in mind what a great scholar — Buzarjomehr — said when asked why the Sassanid Dyansty was plunged into corruption: that the Sassanids had asked for the assistance of small people to carry out big jobs...

Dear Muslim and revolutionary brothers and sisters! O noble Iranians, irrespective of your religion, ethnic background, and any political belief...be aware. This revolution is among the most genuine of revolutions, and its men—from the great leader and the president to the smallest official — are among the most genuine, serious, and committed people...

Let us safeguard this revolution and not break its strong bonds with our arguments about group inclinations and lines, and by showing indifference toward others... "And fall into no disputes lest ye lose heart and your power depart; and be patient and persevering." [Koranic verse]

May God preserve you all...

Iran: Sepah Bank Chief on Deposits, Misappropriated Funds

LD1408210996 Tehran IRNA in English 1707 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA — Iran's banking system deposit totals rls. [rials] 7.4 trillion presently, showing about 40 percent of growth compared to that last year (March 21, 1995-March 19, 1996). Managing director of 'Sepah' bank Valiollah Seyf said here Wednesday [14 August] that the volume of banknotes and coins in circulation constituted 12.5 percent of the total liquidity rate registered by March 19, 1996. It constituted about 14.1 percent of the total liquidity rate in 1373 (March 21, 1994-March 20, 1995). Seyf said that volume of deposits in his bank stood at rls. 9.495 trillion by June 21 this year, showed a rise of rls. 388 billion compared to the same figure recorded on March 20. He added that 81 percent (rls. 7.692 billion) of the sum were deposited by the private sector. The bank of Sepah, he continued, allocated rls 1.413 trillion for the implementation of such projects as the subway, Karun-4 petrochemical complex of Tabriz, and the like in the current year.

According to the Iranian banking official, the bank is to allocate rls. 1.863 trillion for the implementation of 1,199 projects, most of which are the infrastructural ones. Seyf said that among [other things] the bank of Sepah had contributed to the implementation of projects like the industrial-mineral iron ore complex of Golgohar, iron ore complex of Chadormelow, Khash and Kordestan cement plant, tyre manufacturing firm, steel mill, packaging plant as well as tile and brick production units. He added that the bank managed to trade over rls. 282 billion worth shares in first quarter of the year (March 20-June 21), which constituted 7.62 percent of the total shares traded within the period.

Seyf said that the bank managed to grab shares of 15 companies, totalling 15.3 million at a value of rls. 106 billion last year. He concluded that his bank is to recover dlrs. three million of the misapproriated funds from its branch office in Paris by the year end with the assistance of French judicial officials and police.

Iran: Commentary Sees Need To Boost Production To Halt Inflation

NC1508105196 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 5 Aug 96 p 4

[Unattributed commentary: "Welfare and Increased Production Are the Basic Solution"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During a recent cabinet session the remarks by the minister of industries on increased production of some consumer goods were encouraging. After years of no production or a slow down in production for various reasons, the development projects of the First Plan — both in the private and in the public sectors — are now being quickly completed and new products are entering the consumer and export markets. We take this as a good omen. Under the current conditions, more important than raising production figures is that the government regards increasing production as a key factor for improving public welfare and expanding social justice. We do not forget that for some years, manufacturers in the private sector were constantly under propaganda attack by anti-Iranian elements while the government took a passive stand. Now it is almost a national creed that the key to welfare and development lies in increased production and that the private sector can and should play a more significant role in the country's production issues. The private sector is no longer treated like an economic plague or a leech that only sucks out profits. If such adjectives do describe some individuals among the manufacturers, these people constitute an exception to the rule during reconstruction and to the efforts to get the country's economic wheels turning, and of course they will be dealt with as they should be by the law. But any society that longs for progress and development not only does not reject the private sector, it also tries to create the necessary incentives to encourage it to carry on its activities in all parts of the country and even outside the country. Economics is a two-sided coin: One side is the public sector, and the other is the private sector. The cooperative sector, which enjoys a special place in the Islamic Republic's Constitution, can be weighted either toward the private

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

or the public sector, depending on the branches that it represents and the investors and managers involved in these branches. The same applies to our country, where, even with the existence of a ministry of cooperatives, the government seems to be more inclined to having cooperative companies be of a more private nature with the ministry of cooperatives playing the role of guiding, planning, and possibly assisting them. This is a logical and principled policy since it is one way to involve individuals and idle capital, and it can create jobs for society.

The figures the minister of industries presented to the cabinet may not seem to be very large, but those who are acquainted with economic development pay more attention to the percentage of growth than the quantity of production. In other words, assuming that a country produces 50-100 million tonnes of steel per year and continues to maintain this level of production for years on end, despite the large volume of production, such a country naturally will lose out on the international scene to a country with a steel production that increases 20-30 percent annually. Therefore, if we are farsighted, we will consider any increase in production, even minimal, and any improvement in quality, any decrease in inflation, or even more important any drop in inflation to be a good omen for the country's future economic growth, for the people's welfare, and for the expansion of social justice.

Increased production automatically means that this increase has been achieved by putting more national and human resources to use. In other words:

1. Increased production encourages the use of dormant capital for manufacturing purposes;

2. Jobs are created for the unemployed;

3. Skilled labor is helped to achieve specific objectives;

4. Efforts to ensure the people's basic needs are made and, as a result:

5. This plays its effective role as the most significant anti- inflationary element;

6. Increased production automatically eliminates the rationale for the existence of bothersome institutions and gradually removes the burdensome cost incurred by such institutions from the shoulders of the government and the nation;

7. If there is no monopoly in production, and free competition is encouraged and safeguarded, increased production will lead to a drop in prices to the extent that profits will be the minimum that the manufacturer will accept, without any need for the imposition of state penalties. Naturally, if there is increased production and it is felt that there is a need for state punishments, these measures should be aimed only at those individuals and organizations that are monopolizing things and obstructing the correct distribution of goods and services.

8. A big enough increase in production to the point where there will be enough surplus for exports will automatically discourage all speculators in the goods and services needed by the people. And because of the high value of money in a country where prices will fall because of an abundance of products will end speculation and put investments to better use.

9. And finally, when the domestic market is gradually saturated through increased production, there will be a surplus for export. This will be the point where society will start enjoying the benefits of progress, because entering the export market has various beneficial aspects as far as the country's economic development is concerned. This topic calls for more discussion.

Iran: Habibi Urges Diplomats Abroad To Promote Non-Oil Products

LD1308123596 Tehran IRNA in English 0700 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 13, IRNA — First Vice-president Hasan Habibi here Monday [12 August] stressed that Iranian diplomats abroad should keep abreast of the existing opportunities in their countries of mission and strive to promote export of Iran's non-oil products.

Addressing the gathering of Iran's diplomatic corps abroad; he touched on the growing competition at international markets as well as problems hindering presence of the developing countries in these markets. Implementation of numerous industrial and agricultural products have paved the way for turning Iran into an industrial country from a consumer country, Habibi further stated.

He noted that channelling the investment to production, correcting pattern of consumption and payment of subsidies, creation of appropriate infrastructural patterns for development, privatization, encouraging public participation in economic activities and promotion of non-oil exports are the main objectives of the second five-year development plan.

Referring to ineffectiveness of U.S. economic sanctions on Iran, Habibi said that the fact that Clinton's measure has been badly received by the world countries indicates failure of policies of the U.S. Administration. The Iranian diplomats abroad through their publicity should neutralize U.S. conspiracy aimed at isolating the Islamic Republic, the vice-president concluded.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Iran: Daily—Rational Policy Needed To Boost Non-Oil Exports

LD1308130096 Tehran IRNA in English 0900 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — An English-language daily commented on the declining volume of Iranian non-oil exports and called on policy-makers to adopt a sound and rational export policy to correct the deteriorating situation in this sector of the economy.

"Exports are a major factor in the overall development and prosperity of any nation," IRAN NEWS wrote, citing the "economic giants" of the Far Eastern region as countries that prospered following the implementation of a systematic plan for the export of their industrial products and natural resources.

Meanwhile, available statistics indicate that Iranian non-oil exports declined from dlrs. 4.4 billion in the year 1373 to dlrs. 3.2 billion last year, it reported, stating that a number of factors contributed to this situation.

Noting the country's export plan has experienced a severe trauma, it blamed the prevailing hard currency situation in the country as being responsible for the more than 30 percent rise in liquidity and the inflation hike of at least 35 percent.

"Right now, exporters have no incentive to sell their products abroad as the home market is more profitable," the article lamented; adding that analysts were also to blame for the ever-changing and inconsistent rules and regulations governing export businesses.

Calling on authors of export laws to pay attention to Iran's great potential for trade in carpets; pistachios and various industrial goods, the daily concluded by underscoring the need for a sound and rational export policy that would also provide incentives to exporters.

Iran: Editorial Assesses Decline in Exports

LD1108174596 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Aug 96 pp 1, 16

[Editorial by 'Abbas Darvish Tavangar: "Unacceptable Reasons"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some experts who defend the foreign-currency policies ratified at the beginning of last year, instead of resolving the problems of these policies, are saying that the decline of the non-oil exports during 1374 [year ending 19 March 1996] is a consequence of the decline of the global markets, including the European markets.

Although the affects of this situation can not be totally overlooked, for some reason the suggested factor is not the main cause of the decline in the country's non-oil exports:

1. During the first three months of 1373, the country's non-oil exports increased monthly from $187 million to $352 million to $422 million. The increase was repeated from $246 million to $436 million in the first two months of 1374, before the new measures were adopted and implemented. After the new measures were implemented, the decline in exports began and non-oil exports fell from $324 million to $224 million to $201 million.

2. Furthermore, if decline of the world markets, i.e. an external factor, was the main cause of the decline in the non-oil exports, the phenomenon should be extensive, not limited to Iran. However, this is the export list: Turkey—$18 billion, Pakistan—$8 billion, Singapore—$97 billion, South Korea—$104 billion, Malaysia—$58.8 billion, Russia—$51.3 billion, Thailand—$45.3 billion, Hong Kong— $153 billion, and Taiwan—$93 billion. Were these countries untouched by the global decline? How could there be $4.215 trillion of trade between the countries of the world with us having only a $20 billion share, even if we count our oil revenues.

3. The decline that engulfed Europe did not exist in the fresh 300-million markets of Central Asia. Why was the demand not met there?

4. The law for the Second Development Plan was one of the most important national laws and covenants. It covered the most important points for the expansion of the non-oil exports in the form of 16 macro-goals and 34 strategies. It was one of the most unforgettable achievements of the fourth Majles. Not only were these aims and strategies not implemented, some steps were taken to the contrary. People's deputies ratified, in Article 25 of the Second Development Plan, the use of import mechanism against exports. However, due to the policies adopted early last year, their use was initially banned, and continued to be banned, until the consequences of the policies became clear, and finally, it was permitted for certain sections of the foreign currencies that are generated from exports. The bureaucracy ruling over the Central Bank was responsible for the prevention of this.

Some ratified strategies of the Second Development Plan that concern non-oil exports but seem to have failed to attract serious attention include: reform of the law on imports and exports, adoption of proper foreign currency regulations, organizational coordination in the field of exports, higher productivity, activation of offices abroad for marketing, review of the country's trade establishment, formation of an export high council, identification of new markets, reduction of bureaucracy,

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

eradication of problematic laws, and introduction of insurance for exports.

The failure to take into account the above facts has led to a situation where industrial exports have fallen, despite massive industrial investment, from $1.163 trillion in 1373 to $1.061 trillion in 1374, and the agricultural exports from $985 billion to $773 billion.

Iran: Police Round Up 65,000 Unlicensed Weapons in Amnesty

LD1408212896 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 14, IRNA — Deputy Commander of Law Enforcement Forces Brigadier General Ansari said here on Wednesday [14 August] police have rounded up 65,000 unlicensed arms since the amnesty announced for those returning their illegal arms to the police stations. On interception of illicit drugs, he said 57 tons of opium have been seized from the drug smugglers in the current calendar year up by five tons compared with the preceding year. He said in the meantime that police have confiscated rls. 140 billion worth of contraband goods, up by 2.5 folds compared with the past year figure.

Iran: American Lecturer Accuses Liberal Publication of Forgery

LD1208143896 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 8 Aug 96 p 8

[Article attributed to Kayhan International Domestic Service: "Managing Director of KIAN Indicted"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, August 7 — Ramadhan Ranjbar, deputy chief of Tehran Province Judiciary and supervisor of special courts complex announced here Wednesday [7 August] at a press conference that Reza Kaffash Tehrani, managing director of the bi-monthly KIAN, magazine was summoned to court on charges of forgery. Tehrani was indicted for having forged the signature of Professor Hamed Algar, a renowned American Muslim scholar who teaches at the University of California.

In the last issue of KIAN (Ordibehesht-Khordad) published in May 1996, an open letter addressed to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani was printed. Signature of five persons, including that of Professor Algar appeared on that letter.

The signatories expressing disgust over the events that allegedly took place in Tehran University's Technical College, requested the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran to personally take the responsibility for the safety of Dr. Abdul Kareem Soroush, a professor of the university and other Iranian intellectuals.

Views presented by Dr. Soroush on the subject of religion and politics last year were considered to be irrational and irrelevant by most of the audience at his lectures. On some occasions, resentment was also displayed by the students.

Tehrani was summoned to the court after a letter of Professor Algar was printed in KAYHAN daily yesterday (August 16).

Professor Algar stated in the letter that he did not sign the open letter printed in KIAN and neither was he aware of its contents.

Being fully acquainted with Professor Algar and his positive outlook on the Islamic Revolution and its leaders, particularly the late Imam Khomeini, (May God bless his soul), Hussein Shariatanadari, managing director of KAYHAN daily, doubted the authenticity of Dr. Algar's signature. On getting in touch with him, Dr. Algar related that he had flatly refused Tehrani's request to put his signature below the open letter. He requested Shariatmadari to print his letter of objection which he had sent to Tehrani who avoided printing it in KIAN.

Dr. Algar expressed resentment over the wrongful action of KIAN magazine and made it clear that he does not agree, directly or indirectly, with the views made in the said open letter. He also said that his right to sue the magazine for libel is reserved.

Iran: Drug Smuggling Ring Smashed in Shiraz

LD1408212696 Tehran IRNA in English 1348 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Shiraz, Fars Province Aug 14 IRNA — Over the past few days a gang engaged in distribution of illicit drugs was busted and its ringleader, Zabihollah Shahiki, was killed in an encounter with law enforcement forces, said a provincial police official on Wednesday [14 August]. Brigadier Bahram Nouruzi added that the smugglers used to transport drugs from Sistan-Baluchestan Province, in southeast Iran, to Bushehr and Esfahan provinces in southern and central Iran, via Kerman and Fars Provinces. Ten smugglers were also arrested, from whom 427 kg of opium and over 30 kg of morphine were seized, added the brigadier.

The law enforcement personnel also confiscated two wireless, nine RPG-7 rocket launchers, seven automatic and semi-automatic machine guns and a large amount of ammunition from the gangsters, the official said.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Bhutto's Delivers Optimistic Independence Day Address

BK1408111996 Islamabad PTV Television Network in Urdu 0304 GMT 14 Aug 96

[Address to the nation by Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad on Pakistan's Independence Day—live]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of Allah, the most merciful and beneficent. My dear countrymen! Peace be upon you. August 14 is the most important day in the history of Pakistan. The manner in which our forefathers sacrificed their lives, wealth, and honor to realize Pakistan has no parallel in the whole world. Today is a day of happiness and rejoicing. It is a day of celebration.

Dear countrymen, Pakistan was created by the strength of the vote. Now, Pakistan is marching toward the goal of progress, development, and prosperity on the strength of the vote. As the prime minister of the people's elected government, it is my pleasant duty to deliver the Independence Day message to you. It is also a manifestation of your trust.

My dear countrymen, Pakistan will celebrate its Golden Jubilee next year. When we won independence, many people thought that Pakistan could not survive. We proved it wrong. God willing, on 23 March 1997, an extraordinary meeting of Muslim leaders will be held in Pakistan. In the same year, Olympic games will be organized in Pakistan for the women of the Muslim world.

We will celebrate our Golden Jubilee in accordance with the dream of the father of our nation under a democratic system where there is political stability and where all organizations are working as per constitutional norms. We are leaving behind forced, dictatorial, nonparty and rigged elections as well as the negative politics of the past. We are showing the world as well as being recorded in history that we have emerged successful and victorious despite all sorts of impediments. And a generation has come into being that knows only Pakistan. It was born in Pakistan. It worked and was educated here.

When we celebrate our Golden Jubilee, we will show the entire world that this country is the manifestation of that religion and faith which granted to human civilization great women like Hazrat Bibi Khadija, Hazrat Bibi Fatima, Hazrat Bibi Aysha, Hazrat Bibi Zainab, and Hazrat Bibi Hajira [family members of Prophet Mohammad]. This great country Pakistan has 130 million people, who believe in the greatness of woman; who have faith in the greatness of labor; who believe in the honor of laborers and farmers; and who give credence to the rights of minorities. We make no distinction between the poor and the rich regarding these lofty human feelings [jazbah]. We do not nurture provincial or linguistic feelings. We are one and are united as per our will.

Dear countrymen, a nation deserves to be called a nation when it has a constitution. And what is a constitution? A constitution is a legal agreement between the people of any region as well as between various federal units in which they determine the basic principle to remain united. We are proud that there is a constitution in our country. There might be some shortcomings in this constitution, but it provides us a basic structure within which we are carrying forward the affairs of the state.

My dear countrymen, people elect their government on the basis of a God-given right. The government is comprised of three institutions — the executive, judiciary, and assembly [preceding word rendered in English]. All these three institutions are part of the government. And there is only one head of a government who is called the chief executive [preceding two words in English]. The assembly elects the chief executive or the prime minister, which is the manifestation of the aspirations of the people.

The role of judiciary is to interpret law, whereas that of the assembly is to enact law. There was a confusion among certain quarters when the Supreme Court gave its verdict in the appointment of judges case [preceding four words in English]. Some elements are giving an impression that the government does not want to implement the verdict of the court. This is totally wrong. In a democratic society, if a government is not satisfied with any law, then it can refer to the assembly for necessary amendments. Laws are not the words carved in stone. According to their need, people can amend any law through their representatives. So far, we have not felt the need for taking steps in the assembly. Perhaps, the cause for this confusion is our long history of dictatorship. In the past, when the constitution remained suspended and the judiciary interpreted law, the law could not be amended in the absence of assemblies. In the presence of assemblies, law is one which is adopted through legislative process. Therefore, the question does not arise at all that there is a so-called confrontation between the judiciary and the executive.

Therefore, we say that constitutional rule is the fountainhead of stability when the role of every institution of the state is fully expounded; it provides a country with international honor and internal cohesion. That is why we strongly opposed those people who stated that

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the constitution is a mere booklet of 12 pages that can be torn up any time. The will and aspirations of the people can never be torn up. The aspirations of the people always triumph. Therefore, we are confident that victory is awaiting the people of Kashmir.

Let there be any number of attempts to hold the so-called elections, the aspirations of the Kashmiri people cannot be subdued. Dear countrymen, despite four wars in the subcontinent and the deployment of 600,000 troops and paramilitary troops in the valley, India has failed to realize its objective. Any Muslim or any person who has respect for humanity cannot forget the siege of the Hazratbal shrine, ignore the incident of setting fire to Charar Sharif, or forget the wails of those women whose young sons have been murdered. My dear countrymen, today, there is not one household in Kashmir that has not sacrificed a son or a daughter. Please understand the pains of that mother whose son is missing. Please realize the sorrow of that young wife whose husband is missing, not knowing whether he has been killed or is in prison. Please think about that woman who dreams that her son or husband is returning home but, on opening her eyes, has to face the hard truth. Our hearts equally share the sorrow of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters, but we have a sense of pride also. We are proud of their courage and determination. We respect their fortitude. This valor is the guarantor of their right of self-determination.

On our independence day today, we make a pledge to stand shoulder-to-shoulder by our Kashmiri brothers and sisters until the destination is reached. I call upon the international community to fulfill the pledge that they made to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. On this Independence Day today, the prime minister of our brotherly country of Turkey is with us; Hamid Algabid, secretary of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC], is with us; Lamine Camara, chairman of the OIC Contact Group on Kashmir, foreign minister of Niger, and the distinguished guest of the brotherly country of Saudi Arabia, all of them are with us today. It is not only a matter of happiness and strength for us alone, it also augurs well for the freedom of our Kashmiri brothers and sisters.

A meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Kashmir was held in Islamabad yesterday. The meeting asked the Indian government to respect human rights in Kashmir, end oppression and repression, and take steps to improve the situation in the occupied valley. The contact group reaffirmed the stance that elections in Kashmir cannot be a substitute to the right to self-determination. The atrocities in Kashmir, the conflict in Chechnya, the civil war in Afghanistan, and bombing in Lebanon induce sorrow and anguish, frustration and fear, and a feeling of terrorism. Being members of the international community, it is our duty to sit together and resolve the long-standing disputes which cause agony and pose threat to world peace.

A good beginning has been made for seeking a political solution in Bosnia. It is imperative upon us to strengthen the process of seeking political solutions to political problems. This is why, when a new government was elected in India, then we sent a message to India to resolve all outstanding disputes and issues through negotiations. The Indian government has sent us a positive response. We hope that the process of seeking a political solution to the issue according to international law will begin soon. We do not expect solutions to complicated and knotty issues overnight. The announcement of holding the so-called state elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir is not a solution to the issue. India has already staged the farce of elections in the valley eight times since 1947 which has yielded them no success. The All Parties Hurriyat Conference [APHC] has rejected the proposal of elections a the point of a bayonet. The APHC has demanded holding plebiscite. We wholeheartedly support this demand.

Dear countrymen, it is unfortunate that the issue of hostages could not be resolved as yet. Recently, I had a meeting with the wives of two Western hostages. They are innocent people and Islam does not permit any action against an innocent. These people have been held hostage for one year. I once again appeal for their release.

My dear countrymen, we often talk of rights. However, we forget that rights cannot be acquired by only parading down the street; they are acquired through struggle. It was our right to become an independent nation. However, we fought a long war of independence to acquire this right. It was our right to live as independent citizens. However, for this, we struggled thrice to ensure the rule of the Constitution and democracy. To earn a living and protection from inflation are our rights. However, we have to struggle for these rights.

The caretaker prime minister [Moin Qureshi] had termed the country's economic situation as bankrupt. It is not an easy task to lay the foundation of a strong economic infrastructure. However, we are committed to it. This is why we paid attention to foreign investment so that new jobs are generated and production is increased. We treated the country's economy by administering the medicine of macroeconomic adjustment. Power cuts were substantially reduced. We launched a lively social action program. I believe that we will achieve the goal of progress, economic progress, and prosperity through our own efforts. However, we have to struggle to achieve this right and make sacrifices to

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

reach our destination. This is not an easy destination, however, it is not impossible either. The destination can be reached through the continuation of democracy, political stability and economic reforms. It is very unfortunate that some elements are plotting to create an artificial crisis in the country. These people are trying to sabotage our economic progress; they are trying to create chaos through disinformation and blatant lies. However, they will fail.

I would like to repeat the words of the former prime minister and the current opposition leader which he spoke on Independence Day. Quote: A proper political system is essential for economic progress. However, a big ailment of our political system is useless confrontation. He said: [as heard] The president of the country is everyone's president, the prime minister of the country is everyone's prime minister. Their dignity is the dignity of the country. Any effort to malign them impairs the country's dignity. And those political circles who hope that they will find a way by creating an atmosphere of confrontation their minds must have become stagnant 15 or 20 years ago. The time has now changed. People are not inclined toward hooliganism now. The days of Put Another Blow have gone. End of quote.

The opposition has a role to play in a democracy and this role demands that the opposition wait for the next elections. The plot to capture power by creating an artificial economic crisis is regrettable. It is a plot against Pakistan's poor people, laborers, farmers, students, and shopkeepers. It is a plot against all those people who are unemployed and those who are unable to cope with the inflation. This plot constitutes three parts. First, to instigate strikes and marches so as to aggravate the problems of the poor and the unemployed. Second, to create an artificial economic crisis in the country and to create chaos and frustration among the working and middle classes through disinformation. Third, to spread rumors about the Judiciary, the armed forces, and the president and the government. I would like to tell you there is no truth in these things. The people of Pakistan believe in the Koranic verses of Chapter An-Nas which reads: Say, I seek refuge in the Lord of mankind, the King of mankind, the God of mankind, from the evil of sneaking whisperer, who whispers in the hearts of mankind, whether they are jinnis or human beings.

My brothers and sisters, the growing stability of our economy can be estimated from the fact that we have reduced the budget deficit from 8 percent to 5 percent. We floated a financial bond in June 1996 that was oversubscribed by $50 million. We have repaid an external debt of $1 billion.

Brothers and sisters, we used to receive large-scale military and economic assistance during the days of the Afghan war. However, now, our economy is undergoing a phase of transition. Our taxation system is limited and the rate of national savings is low. In order to expand the taxation system, the government for the first time introduced the agricultural wealth tax. The provinces have also promised the federal government to introduce an agricultural income tax. The sales tax system has been adopted because out of 130 million people in the country only 800,000 people pay taxes. This system was massively resisted. There are several reasons for this. However, we feel that the sales tax is necessary for our progress and prosperity. Additionally, we are trying to reduce the population growth from 2.9 percent to 2.6 percent.

Napolean said that hungry troops cannot march forward. This holds good for nations as well. It is the responsibility of the government to take steps to eradicate unemployment, inflation, illiteracy, backwardness, and poverty. We are committed to do this, irrespective of whether they are liked or disliked. To us, the government is a sacred trust of the backward and oppressed people of Pakistan that has been given to us to realize a bright future. Mere slogan-mongering, and that too by those who had been unsuccessful in their tenure in office, will prove ineffective. Reforms are necessary for us. We need a movement to do away with poverty, unemployment, and inflation. We, with the help of the people, have started this movement.

Dear brothers and sisters, today, the Parliament House is not silent. Today, while addressing you in front of the green crescent flag, I feel proud of of the achievements of our nation and country. In the initial 25 years of our national life, we witnessed four wars and during the following 24 years there has been no war. We witnessed three martial laws during our initial 25 years; however, in the last 11 years we have been free from them. This is the longest period of democracy in our national history. In the last 11 years, we have witnessed eight governments. In this 11-year period, the popular government has had the longest tenure in office. Three years ago, we were on the verge of being declared a terrorist state. Today, we are being praised for countering terrorism.

Three years ago we were under pressure to unilaterally stop our peaceful nuclear program. Today we have convinced the world that the issue of nuclear proliferation is to be resolved using a regional perspective. Three years ago, we had become isolated at the international level, but today international conferences are being held in Pakistan. Three years ago, one out of every five children affected by polio in the world was Pakistani. In

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

the next two years, polio will be completely eradicated from Pakistan. In the last three years, we have built 21,000 primary schools, provided 700,000 telephones and 600,000 Sui gas connections to consumers, and supplied electricity to 18,000 villages.

It was by virtue of our efforts that the Organization of the Islamic Conference at its Casablanca summit for the first time called for the resolution of the Kashmir issue in accordance with the UN resolutions. For the first time since 1947, we barred our cabinet ministers from obtaining loans from Pakistani banks, because we understand that politics and trade cannot go hand in hand. For the first time since 1947 political appointments in the Central Board of Revenue, the Federal Investigation Agency, and the Narcotics Division were banned. For the first time in the history of the country, farmers were given international prices for their produce — the crops that our farmer brothers produce after toiling in the sweat of their brows in scorching heat and biting cold. For the first time since 1947, our national press became fully independent.

The Brown Amendment was passed during our tenure in office, although our neighboring country used all its energy opposing it. Out of the money Pakistan has paid, it has received back the first installment of $150 million. We hope that our first shipment of military equipment will arrive at Karachi port on 26 August.

For the first time in 11 years, peace has been restored to our Karachi city. In their vain imagination, our enemies thought that by holding Karachi as hostage, they would be able to hold the entire nation to ransom, but they have miserably failed in their designs. The State Bank of Pakistan has been made an autonomous organization. Now, intending pilgrims can fly to Sehwan Sharif by air to perform prayers at the Hazrat Lal Shahbaz Qalandar's shrine. For pilgrims going to Hazrat Baba Farid shrine, the airport at Pak Pattan will soon become operational. Hajj flights to Saudi Arabia from Multan and Sukkur have been started. Work on Gwadar and Keti Bandar ports has begun. The first private sector electricity generating unit, HUBCO, has been completed. The Indus Highway is under construction and an optic fiber cable is being laid along the right bank of the Indus River. Construction of a bridge over the Ravi River and a new airport in Lahore is in progress and development packages for major cities are being implemented. After centuries, soft drinking water has become available to the poor people living in the coastal areas of Makran.

The Pakistan Navy has received the latest submarines; the Pakistan Army is receiving the latest tanks; and the Pakistan Air Force is being provided with the latest planes. For the first time in our national life, our people in the northern areas have been allowed voting rights. For the first time since 1947, the cabinet has approved the electoral reforms bill. The bill aims at ensuring fair elections and doing away with religious discrimination. For the first time in our history, women have been appointed in superior courts. Women's banks have been opened, women police stations have been established, and family courts headed by women judges are being set up. Thirty-three lady health work visitors have been employed to reduce the infant mortality rate. The Prime Minister's Literacy Program has been started to raise the literacy rate from 30 percent to 80 percent in 10 years. The Prime Minister's (?Funds) Program has been started to prevent flood damages in the country. The people's government has announced the Sixth Wage Board Award for newspaper employees. The award has already been implemented in the ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN.

The people's government has introduced fax machines, cellular telephones, digital pagers, FM radio, and satellite dishes. Computer centers have been opened to enable Pakistan to enter the information age. The pace of technical education has been accelerated. Keeping in view the economic difficulties with which Pakistan is faced, these are no insignificant achievements. However, these achievements are not attributable only to me or my party or the government. They are the achievements of the laborious and patriotic people of Pakistan.

My brothers and sisters, I am very proud of you. You are the real strength of this nation. Your blood, sweat, and tears have contributed to the construction of this nation. The coming generations will pay tribute to your invincible spirit and untiring labor.

Now, I would like to give a special message to our students. As a mother, I greatly adore the nation's sons and daughters. Dear students, you will have more educational opportunities compared to what was available to the people of my generation. You will get greater freedom compared to what people in my generation enjoyed. You are lucky that you are not faced with the deprivation which was experienced by the previous generation. I would like to ask you to make use of this opportunity of education, freedom, and progress with prudence, tolerance, and a spirit of sacrifice. Dear youth, I would like you to condemn violence and terrorism in all circumstances and work for peace, progress, and prosperity. You should not forget the high values in this new age; you should respect your elders and fulfill your responsibilities toward your family and small children. You must not forget the high value of sacrificing life for honesty, courage, devotion, patience, and tolerance.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

On this occasion, I would also like to give a special message to our armed forces. My brothers in the armed forces, the whole world appreciates you. You have always written indelible histories of courage and valor against aggression. We feel proud in the world community for your role in the UN peacekeeping force. You have authored sagas of gallantry and bravery from the Siachen to the Pakistan's deserts that are unparalleled in history. Our soldiers and officers are always ready to respond to the call of the motherland. Whether it is external aggression or internal sabotage, our armed forces are always ready to protect the country's vital installations. We salute your bravery and daring nature; we salute the martyrs of freedom; we salute the builders of the nation. I pray to God that he will enable Pakistan meet the goals of peace, progress and prosperity. I pray to God to bestow his benefits on the people of the four provinces of Pakistan, Azad Kashmir, northern areas, and the tribal areas, because these people constitute the wealth of our nation, our aspirations, and our dreams, and desires. Come, let us unitedly make Pakistan strong and stable.

May God make this beautiful land always prosperous and keep it independent so long as this world exists. May God make this beautiful land always prosperous. Long Live Pakistan!

Pakistan: Many Killed in Karachi Shooting; Leaders Condemn Incident

BK1408155796 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a press note issued in Karachi this evening, 11 people were killed and nine others were injured when some unknown persons opened fire in the Jamshed Quarters area of the city this afternoon. However, other reports said that 12 people were killed and 11 injured when some unknown persons fired at an Independence Day rally taken out by a religious group this afternoon. The assailants who were riding in a Suzuki pickup later fled away from the scene.

Sindh Governor Kamal Azfar and Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah have strongly condemned the shooting incident in Karachi and said the government will deal firmly with elements who are involved in the killing of the innocent people. Talking to newsmen, the governor described the incident as a conspiracy against the people and the country.

Commenting on the incident, Chief Minister Syed Abdullah Shah vehemently condemned the killing of the people and termed it as the most unfortunate incident at a time when the nation is celebrating its Independence Day. He said it might be a sectarian incident. He directed the local administration to arrest the culprits and give them exemplary punishment. The chief minister announced the compensation of 100,000 rupees each for the bereaved families of the dead persons and 30,000 rupees for the injured persons.

Later, the governor visited the injured people in the hospital and inquired about their welfare. He assured the people that the government will not spare any efforts to arrest the culprits and give them exemplary punishment. He instructed the doctors to provide the best possible medical care to the injured people.

Pakistan: Visiting Afghan Delegation Meets Benazir Bhutto

LD1208204696 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The visiting high-ranking Afghan delegation met Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto yesterday. After expressing the wish of the state and government of Afghanistan to improve good-neighborly relations, the esteemed Mohammad Yonus Qanuni, minister of internal affairs and head of the Afghan delegation, presented a personal message to her from Brother Hekmatyar, prime minister of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. He said the visit of the Afghan delegation to Pakistan was a new page in the improvement of relations between the two countries.

Expressing similar sentiments, Bhutto wished for the rapid restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan. The Pakistani prime minister expressed the hope that war and bloodshed would cease in Afghanistan. She expressed the serious interest of the Pakistan government in the improvement of relations between the two countries and gave a reassurance concerning the sincere efforts of the government of Pakistan towards achieving this goal.

According to another report, the Afghan delegation today met and held talks with Pakistan Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali. During the meeting, the Pakistani side once again offered reassurances that a delegation from that country, headed by Foreign Secretary Najmuddin Shaikh, will visit Kabul at the end of the current Christian month [August] to assess the possibility of reopening that country's embassy in Kabul.

The report adds that at the end of the talks the Afghan delegation participated in a function given in their honor by the Pakistani foreign minister.

Quoting Pakistani television, international news agencies have reported that Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has said that his country's ambassador will soon be sent to Kabul to establish diplomatic relations with Afghanistan.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

The Afghan delegation has been visiting Islamabad over the past three days to improve relations with Pakistan.

Pakistan: Joint Communique Issued on Afghan Delegation's Talks

BK1308012896 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan is to reopen its embassy in Kabul, and a team will be visiting the Afghan capital this month to make arrangements for this purpose. A joint communique issued at the end of the three-day visit of a high-ranking Afghan delegation led by Interior Minister Yonus Qanuni said a decision to this effect was made during talks with Pakistani leaders.

Both sides decided to search for constructive ways and means to enhance the level of mutual trust. For this purpose, they agreed on the importance of fully functional diplomatic relations to facilitate the development of ties on the basis of internationally accepted principles of noninterference in each other's internal affairs, mutual respect for territorial integrity, and national unity.

The Pakistan side promised to make every effort based on brotherly feelings toward the Afghan people to promote an intra-Afghan dialogue aimed at ensuring the administrative and political unity of Afghanistan and bringing peace and security there.

According to the communique, an Afghan delegation will visit Pakistan within a month to discuss problems related to the transit trade agreements of 1965. Pakistan agreed to provide facilities for Afghan trade with China via the Karkoram Highway. The two countries also agreed to end propaganda against each other at the official level. Both sides agreed to give priority to the realization of the gas pipeline project between Turkmenistan and Pakistan through Afghanistan and the reconstruction and repair of highways in Afghanistan.

Pakistan: Turkish Prime Minister Holds Talks With Bhutto, Leghari

BK1408005196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 13 Aug 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her Turkish counterpart Necmettin Erbakan held wide-ranging talks in Islamabad today on bilateral, regional, and international issues. The two sides decided to give top priority to enhance economic and commercial relations. They also decided to form a joint investment council to boost the economic cooperation between the two countries. They expressed satisfaction over the continuous high-level contacts between the two countries and expressed the need for exchange of parliamentary and business delegations to strengthen political and economic ties.

The prime minister briefed the distinguished guest on the situation in occupied Kashmir and atrocities being committed by the occupation forces there. Earlier, the two prime ministers had a one-to-one meeting without aides and discussed ways to boost bilateral relations.

President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari has said that Turkey and Pakistan occupy pivotal position in their regions and should enhance economic and trade cooperation to further strengthen their close cultural and historical ties. He was talking to Turkish Prime Minister Dr. Necmettin Erbakan at the President House in Islamabad today. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto was also present on the occasion. The president said Turkey and Pakistan are strategically located at the crossroads of several important civilizations and regions and can play very crucial role for peace and development in the world. He said Turkey and Pakistan share identical views on various regional and international issues and it is hoped that certain concrete steps will be taken to further expand commercial, economic, and cultural cooperation for the mutual benefit of the people of the two countries.

Dr. Necmettin Erbakan reciprocated sentiments of the president and said that Turkey and Pakistan can enhance their cooperation in several areas, including defense and technology. He said it is very important to maintain bilateral contacts at all levels, besides evolving a permanent mechanism to ensure mutual investment and increased economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Pakistan: Daily Reports on Corps Commanders' Meeting

BK1408013396 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 13 Aug 96 pp 1, 7

[Report by Javed Siddiq]

[FBIS Translated Text] It has been learnt through reliable sources that an important meeting of corps commanders was held at GHQ [General Headquarters] Rawalpindi. The meeting was chaired by the chief of army staff, General Jehangir Karamat. The meeting which continued for more than five hours discussed important defense issues and the current state of internal security in the country. Besides corps commanders, principal staff officers also attended the meeting. According to sources in the military, the chief of army staff gave detailed briefing to the corps commanders on the internal and regional security situations. The military kept this corps commanders' meeting confidential. The meeting started at 0900 and discussed important

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

issues concerning the country's security in addition to discussing professional matters. The meeting continued till 1400. Corps commanders expressed their views on matters concerning defense and security. According to military sources, professional training and requirements were reviewed in the meeting and the purchase of tanks from Ukraine was also discussed.

According to the ISPR [Inter Services Public Relations] press release the 53rd corps commanders conference was held at GHQ on Monday [12 August] morning. Chief of Army Staff General Jehangir Karamat presided the conference. Matters relating to national defense and security were discussed. The conference was attended by all corps commanders and principle staff officers of the GHQ.

According to NNI [News Network International], the corps commanders conference was attended by corps commanders, principal staff officers, director general military intelligence and director general Inter Services Intelligence [ISI]. The nuclear program and CTBT [Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty] also came under discussion in the meeting. Reiterating the resolve to uphold national interest at any cost, it was said that Pakistan cannot ignore its defense requirements. Increasing Indian barbarities in the Indian Occupied Kashmir and the border situation was also reviewed in the meeting.

This report may contain copyrighted material. Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

— Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.

— Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.

— Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.